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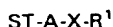
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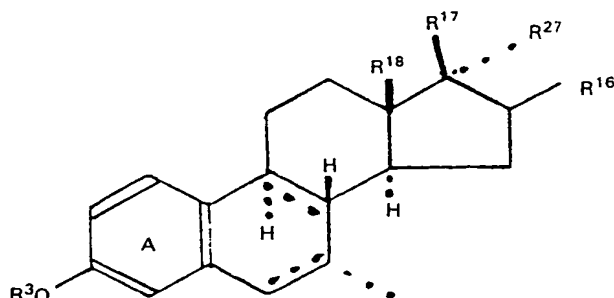
Steroid derivatives.

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A steroid derivative of the formula:



wherein ST is a 7 $\alpha$ -linked steroid nucleus of the general formula:



wherein the double bond(s) carbon atoms 6 and 7 and/or carbon atoms 8 and 9 are optional;  
wherein the aromatic ring A may optionally bear one or two halogen or alkyl substituents;  
wherein R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen, alkyl, or acyl;  
wherein R<sup>16</sup> is hydrogen, alkyl or hydroxy;

wherein either R<sup>17</sup> is hydroxy or acyloxy and R<sup>27</sup> is hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl, or R<sup>17</sup> and R<sup>27</sup> together form oxo (=O);

wherein R<sup>18</sup> is alkyl;

wherein A is alkylene, alkenylene or alkynylene optionally fluorinated and optionally interrupted by -O-, -S-, -SO-, -SO<sub>2</sub>-, -CO-, -NR-, -NRCO-, -CONR-, -COO-, -OCO- or phenylene, wherein R is hydrogen or alkyl;

wherein R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, halogenoalkyl, carboxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, or dialkylaminoalkyl, or R<sup>1</sup> is joined to R<sup>2</sup> as defined below;

and wherein X is -NR<sup>22</sup>-, -CSNR<sup>22</sup>-, -NR<sup>12</sup>CO-, -NR<sup>12</sup>CS-,  
NR<sup>22</sup>

||  
-NR<sup>12</sup>CONR<sup>22</sup>-, NR<sup>12</sup>C-NR<sup>22</sup>-, -SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>22</sup>-, or -CO-; or, when R<sup>1</sup> is not hydrogen, is -O-, -NR<sup>22</sup>-, -(NO)R<sup>22</sup>-, -(PO)R<sup>22</sup>-, -NR<sup>12</sup>COO-;  
-NR<sup>12</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>-, -S-, -SO- or -SO<sub>2</sub>-;

wherein R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen or alkyl or R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> together form alkylene or halogenoalkylene;

wherein R<sup>12</sup> is hydrogen or alkyl and wherein R<sup>22</sup> is hydrogen, cyano or nitro;

or a salt thereof when appropriate.

**EP 0 138 504 A2**

STEROID DERIVATIVES

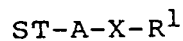
This invention relates to new steroid derivatives which possess antioestrogenic activity.

Various oestradiol derivatives are known which bear a carboxyalkyl substituent at the 7 $\alpha$ -position.

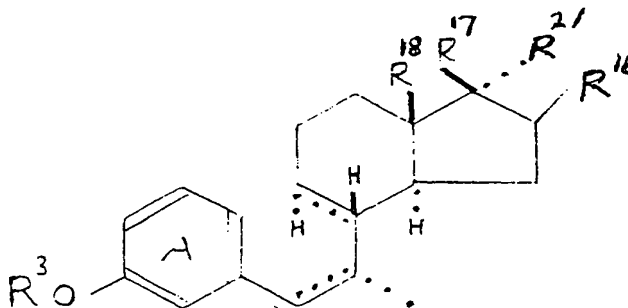
5 These have been used, when bound via the carboxy group to polyacrylamide resin or to agarose, for the purification of oestrogen receptors (Journal of Biological Chemistry, 1978, 253, 8221); and, when  
10 conjugated with bovine serum albumin, for the preparation of antigens (United Kingdom Specification No. 1,478,356).

We have now found that certain 7 $\alpha$ -substituted derivatives of oestradiol and related steroids possess  
15 potent antioestrogenic activity.

According to the invention there is provided a steroid derivative of the formula:-



wherein ST is a 7 $\alpha$ -linked steroid nucleus of the general formula:-



wherein the dotted lines between carbon atoms 6 and 7, and carbon atoms 8 and 9, of the steroid nucleus indicate that there is an optional double bond between carbon atoms 6 and 7, or that there are two optional double bonds between carbon atoms 6 and 7 and carbon atoms 8 and 9;

wherein the aromatic ring A may optionally bear one or two halogen or alkyl substituents;

wherein  $R^3$  is hydrogen or alkyl, alkanoyl, alkoxy carbonyl, carboxyalkanoyl or aroyl each of up to 10 carbon atoms;

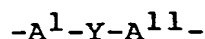
wherein  $R^{16}$  is hydrogen, alkyl of up to 6 carbon atoms which is preferably in the  $\beta$ -configuration, or hydroxy which is preferably in the  $\alpha$ -configuration;

wherein either  $R^{17}$  (in the  $\beta$ -configuration) is hydroxy or alkanoyloxy, carboxyalkanoxy or aroyloxy each of up to 10 carbon atoms; and  $R^{27}$  (in the  $\alpha$ -configuration) is hydrogen or alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl each of up to 6 carbon atoms ;

or  $R^{17}$  and  $R^{27}$  together form oxo (=O);

wherein  $R^{18}$  is alkyl of up to 6 carbon atoms;

wherein A is straight- or branched- chain alkylene, alkenylene or alkynylene each of from 3 to 14 carbon atoms, which may have one or more hydrogen atoms replaced by fluorine atoms, or has the formula



wherein  $A^1$  and  $A^{11}$  are each alkylene or alkenylene, optionally fluorinated, having together a total of 2 to 13 carbon atoms and Y is -O-, -S-, -SO-, -SO<sub>2</sub>-, -CO- or -NR- wherein R is hydrogen or alkyl of up to 3 carbon atoms;

or  $A^1$  is alkylene or alkenylene, optionally fluorinated, and  $A^{11}$  is a direct link or alkylene or alkenylene, optionally fluorinated, such that  $A^1$  and

- <sup>11</sup>  
A together have a total of 1 to 12 carbon atoms, and  
Y is -NR<sup>1</sup>CO-, -CONR<sup>1</sup>-, -COO-, -OCO- or phenylene wherein  
R has the meaning stated above;  
wherein R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen, or alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl,  
5 halogenoalkyl, carboxyalkyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, aryl  
or arylalkyl each of up to 10 carbon atoms, or  
dialkylaminoalkyl wherein each alkyl is of up to 6  
carbon atoms, or R<sup>1</sup> is joined to R<sup>2</sup> as defined  
below;  
10 and wherein X is -CONR<sup>2</sup>-, -CSNR<sup>2</sup><sub>22</sub>-, -NR<sup>12</sup>-CO-,  
-NR<sup>12</sup>-CS<sub>2</sub>-, -NR<sup>12</sup>-CONR<sup>2</sup>-, -NR<sup>12</sup><sub>NR</sub>-C-NR<sup>2</sup>-,  
-SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>1</sup>- or -CO-;  
or, when R<sup>1</sup> is not hydrogen, is -O-, -NR<sup>2</sup>-,  
-(NO)R<sup>2</sup>-, -(PO)R<sup>2</sup>-, -NR<sup>12</sup>-COO-, -NR<sup>12</sup>-SO<sub>2</sub>-, -S-,  
15 -SO- or -SO<sub>2</sub>-;  
wherein R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen or alkyl of up to 6 carbon  
atoms, or R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> together form alkylene or  
halogenoalkylene such that, with the adjacent nitrogen  
atom, they form a heterocyclic ring of 5 to 7 ring  
atoms, one of which atoms may be a second heterocyclic  
atom selected from oxygen, sulphur and nitrogen;  
20 wherein R<sup>12</sup> is hydrogen or alkyl of up to 6 carbon  
atoms;  
and wherein R<sup>22</sup> is hydrogen, cyano or nitro;  
25 or a salt thereof when appropriate.

A suitable value for the halogen or alkyl  
substituent in ring A is, for example, fluoro, chloro,  
bromo, iodo, methyl or ethyl.

- A suitable value for R<sup>3</sup> when it is alkyl,  
30 alkanoyl, alkoxycarbonyl, carboxyalkanoyl or aroyl is,  
for example, methyl, ethyl, acetyl, propionyl, butyryl,  
pivalyl, decanoyl, isopropoxycarbonyl, succinyl or  
benzoyl. R<sup>3</sup> is preferably hydrogen or alkanoyl or  
alkoxycarbonyl each of up to 5 carbon atoms.

A suitable value for  $R^{16}$  when it is alkyl is, for example, methyl or ethyl.  $R^{16}$  is preferably hydrogen.

5 A suitable value for  $R^{17}$  when it is alkanoyloxy, carboxyalkanoyloxy or aroyloxy is, for example, acetoxy, propionyloxy, succinyloxy or benzoyloxy.  $R^{17}$  is preferably hydroxy.

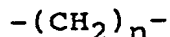
10 A suitable value for  $R^{27}$  when it is alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl is, for example, ethyl, vinyl or ethynyl.  $R^{27}$  is preferably hydrogen.

A suitable value for  $R^{18}$  is methyl or ethyl, especially methyl.

15 The group ST- is preferably oestra-1,3,5(10)-triene-3,17 $\beta$ -diol, 3-hydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-17 - one or 17 $\alpha$ -ethynyloestra-1,3,5(10)-triene-3,17 $\beta$ -diol, all of which bear the -A-X- $R^1$  substituent in the 7 $\alpha$ -position, or a 3-alkanoyl ester thereof.

One preferred value for the group -A- is a straight-chain alkylene group of the formula

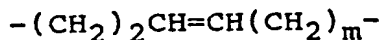
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wherein n is an integer of from 3 to 14, especially from 7 to 11, which may have one of the hydrogen atoms replaced by fluorine, for example to provide the group

25

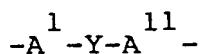
$-(CH_2)_8CHFCH_2-$ . A may also be a branched-chain alkylene group, for example the group  $-(CH_2)_6CH(CH_3)-$ , or a straight-chain alkenylene group, for example of the formula



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wherein m is an integer from 0 to 10, especially from 3 to 7.

A second preferred value for the group A is a group of the formula



wherein  $A^1$  is straight-chain alkylene or alkenylene each of 2 to 9 carbon atoms, especially alkylene of 4 to 6 carbon atoms, -Y- is phenylene (ortho, meta- or, especially, para-) and  $A^{11}$  is a direct link, ethylene or vinylene, especially ethylene.

A suitable value for  $R^1$  when it is alkyl, alkenyl or cycloalkyl is, for example, methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, t-butyl, n-pentyl, t-pentyl, 2,2-dimethylpropyl, 1-methylbutyl, 2-methylbutyl, 3-methylbutyl, n-hexyl, 1,1-dimethylbutyl, 1,3-dimethylbutyl, n-heptyl, n-nonyl, n-decyl, n-undecyl, allyl, cyclopentyl or cyclohexyl.

A suitable value for  $R^1$  when it is aryl or arylalkyl is, for example, phenyl, 2-ethylphenyl, p-fluorophenyl, p-chlorophenyl, m-chlorophenyl, p-cyanophenyl, p-methoxyphenyl, benzyl, X-methylbenzyl, p-chlorobenzyl, p-fluorophenethyl or p-chlorophenethyl.

A suitable value for  $R^1$  when it is halogenoalkyl, carboxyalkyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl or dialkylaminoalkyl is, for example, 2-chloro-2,2-difluoroethyl, 2,2,2-trifluoroethyl, 2,2,3,3,3-pentafluoropropyl, 3-chloropropyl, 2,2-difluorobutyl, 4,4,4-trifluorobutyl, 1H,1H-heptafluorobutyl, 4,4,5,5,5-pentafluoropentyl, 4,4,5,5,6,6,6-heptafluorohexyl, 1H,1H-tridecafluoroheptyl, 5-carboxypentyl, 5-methoxycarbonylpentyl or 3-dimethylaminopropyl.

A suitable value for the heterocyclic ring  $-NR^1R^2$  is, for example, pyrrolidino, piperidino, 4-methylpiperidino, 4-ethylpiperidino, 3-methylpiperidino, 3,3-dimethylpiperidino, 4-chloropiperidino, morpholino or 4-methylpiperazino.

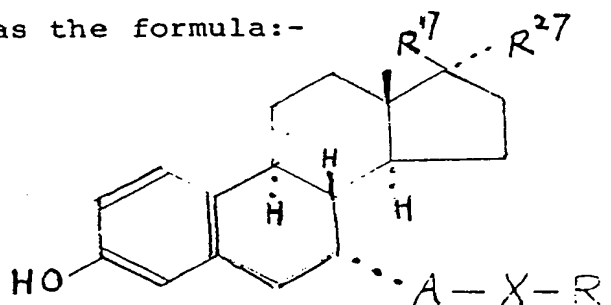
A suitable value for  $R^2$  or  $R^{12}$  when it is alkyl is, for example, methyl, ethyl or n-butyl.



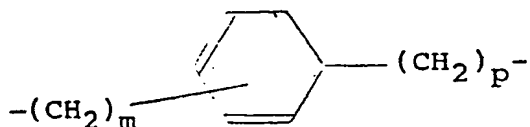
One appropriate salt is an acid-addition salt of a steroid derivative which possesses an amino function, for example a compound wherein Y is  $-NR-$ , X is  $-NR^2-$  or  $R^1$  is dialkylaminoalkyl. A suitable acid-addition salt is, for example, a hydrochloride, hydrobromide, acetate, citrate, oxalate or tartrate.

Another appropriate salt is a base-addition salt of a steroid derivative which possesses a carboxy function, for example a compound wherein  $R^1$  is carboxyalkyl. A suitable base-addition salt is, for example, a sodium, potassium, ammonium or cyclohexylamine salt.

A preferred steroid derivative of the invention has the formula:-



wherein  $R^{17}$  is hydroxy and  $R^{27}$  is hydrogen or ethynyl, or  $R^{17}$  and  $R^{27}$  together form oxo; wherein  $-A-$  is  $-(CH_2)_n-$ , wherein  $n$  is an integer from 3 to 14, especially from 7 to 11, or  $-A-$  is



wherein  $m$  is an integer from 2 to 9, especially from 4 to 6, and  $p$  is 0 to 2, especially 0 or 2;

wherein  $R^1$  is alkyl, fluoroalkyl or cycloalkyl each of up to 10 carbon atoms, or phenyl, chlorophenyl or benzyl, or is linked to  $R^2$  as stated below;

wherein X is  $-CONR^2-$ ,  $-NR^{12}CO-$ ,  $-S-$ ,  $-SO-$  or  $-SO_2-$ , wherein  $R^2$  is hydrogen or alkyl of up to 3 carbon

atoms or together with  $R^1$  forms alkylene of 5 or 6 carbon atoms, and wherein  $R^{12}$  is hydrogen or alkyl of up to 3 carbon atoms.

A particularly preferred steroid derivative of the invention has the last-mentioned formula wherein the number of carbon atoms in the two groups A and  $R^1$  adds up to between 12 and 16, inclusive, especially 14 if neither  $R^1$  nor A contains a phenyl or phenylene group, and 16 if there is a phenylene group in -A- or a phenyl group in  $R^1$ .

Specific steroid derivatives of the invention are hereinafter described in the Examples. Of these, particularly preferred compounds are:

N-n-butyl-N-methyl-, N-2,2,3,3,4,4,4-heptafluorobutyl-N-methyl- and N, N-(3-methylpentamethylene)-11-(3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)undecamide;

N-n-butyl- and N-2,2,3,3,4,4,4-heptafluorobutyl-3-p-[4-(3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)butyl]phenylpropionamide;

7 $\alpha$ -(10-p-chlorophenylthiodecyl)-, 7 $\alpha$ -(10-p-chlorophenylsulphinyldecyl)-, 7 $\alpha$ -[9-(4,4,5,5,5-pentafluoropentylsulphonyl)nonyl]-, 7 $\alpha$ -[10-(4,4,4-trifluorobutylsulphonyl)-decyl]- and 7 $\alpha$ -[10-(p-chlorobenzylsulphonyl)decyl]oestra-1,3,5(10)-triene-3,17 $\beta$ -diol; and

7 $\alpha$ -(9-n-heptylsulphinylnonyl)oestra-1,3,5(10)-triene-3,17 $\beta$ -diol.

A preferred process for the manufacture of a steroid derivative of the invention wherein X has the formula  $-\text{CONR}^2-$ ,  $-\text{CSNR}^2-$  or  $-\text{SO NR}^2-$  comprises the reaction of a compound of the formula  $\text{ST}^1-\text{A}-\text{Z}^1$ , wherein A has the meaning stated above, wherein  $\text{ST}^1$  either has the same meaning as stated above for ST, or is an equivalent 7 $\alpha$ -linked steroid nucleus which bears one or more protecting groups for functional derivatives, and wherein  $\text{Z}^1$  is an activated group

derived from a carboxylic, thiocarboxylic or sulphonic acid, with an amine of the formula  $\text{HNR}^1\text{R}^2$ , wherein  $\text{R}^1$  and  $\text{R}^2$  have the meanings stated above, whereafter any protecting group in  $\text{ST}^1$  is removed by conventional means.

A suitable activated group  $\text{Z}^1$  is, for example, a mixed anhydride, for example an anhydride formed by reaction of the acid with a chloroformate such as isobutyl chloroformate.

A suitable protecting group in  $\text{ST}^1$  is, for example, an alkyl or aralkyl ether, for example the methyl or benzyl ether, of the 3-hydroxy function, or a tetrahydropyranyl ether of the  $17\beta$ -hydroxy function.

A preferred process for the manufacture of a steroid derivative of the invention wherein X has the formula  $-\text{CO}-$  comprises the reaction of an acid of the formula  $\text{ST}^1-\text{A}-\text{COOH}$ , wherein  $\text{ST}^1$  and A have the meanings stated above, with an organometallic compound of the formula  $\text{R}^1-\text{M}$ , wherein  $\text{R}^1$  has the meaning stated above and M is a metal group, for example the lithium group, whereafter any protecting group in  $\text{ST}^1$  is removed by conventional means.

A preferred process for the manufacture of a steroid derivative of the invention wherein X has the formula  $-\text{S}-$ ,  $-\text{O}-$ ,  $-\text{NR}^2-$  or  $-(\text{PO})\text{R}^2-$  comprises the reaction of a compound of the formula  $\text{ST}^1-\text{A}-\text{Z}^2$ , wherein  $\text{ST}^1$  and A have the meanings stated above and wherein  $\text{Z}^2$  is a displaceable group, with a compound of the formula  $\text{R}^1\text{SH}$ ,  $\text{R}^1\text{OH}$ ,  $\text{HNR}^1\text{R}^2$  or  $\text{R}^1\text{R}^2\text{P}-\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$  wherein  $\text{R}^1$  and  $\text{R}^2$  have the meanings stated above, whereafter any protecting group in  $\text{ST}^1$  is removed by conventional means, and whereafter a phosphonium salt is hydrolysed to the phosphinyl compound.

A suitable value for  $\text{Z}^2$  is, for example, a halogen atom or a sulphonyloxy group, for example the methanesulphonyloxy or toluene-p-sulphonyloxy group.

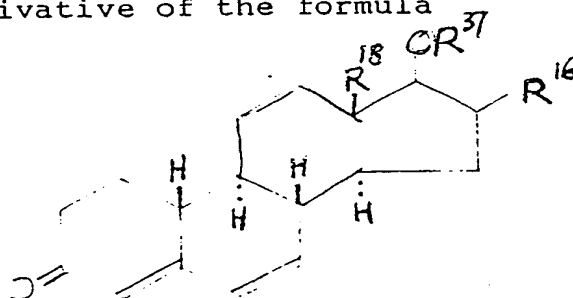
A preferred process for the manufacture of a

steroid derivative of the invention wherein X has the  
formula  $\text{-NR}^{12}\text{CO-}$ ,  $\text{-NR}^{12}\text{CS-}$ ,  $\text{-NR}^{12}\text{CONR}^2\text{-}$ ,

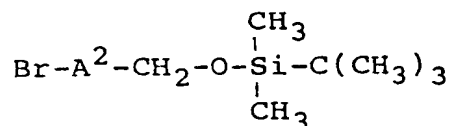
$\text{-NR}^{12}\text{-C(=NR}^2\text{)-}$ ,  $\text{-NR}^{12}\text{COO-}$  or  $\text{-NR}^{12}\text{SO}_2\text{-}$  comprises  
the reaction of a compound of the formula  $\text{ST}^1\text{-A-NHR}^{12}$ ,  
5 wherein  $\text{ST}^1$ , A and  $\text{R}^{12}$  have the meanings stated  
above, with an acylating agent derived from an acid of  
the formula  $\text{R}^1\text{COOH}$ ,  $\text{R}^1\text{CSOH}$ ,  $\text{R}^1\text{OCOOH}$  or  
 $\text{R}^1\text{SO}_2\text{OH}$ ; or, for the manufacture of a urea, with an  
isocyanate of the formula  $\text{R}^1\text{NCO}$ ; or, for the  
10 manufacture of a guanidine, with a cyanamide of the  
formula  $\text{R}^1\text{NR}^2\text{-CN}$ , whereafter any protecting group  
in  $\text{ST}^1$  is removed by conventional means.

A suitable acylating agent is, for example, an  
acyl chloride or acyl anhydride.

15 The starting materials for use in all the  
abovementioned processes may be obtained by reacting a  
steroid derivative of the formula

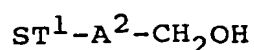


20 wherein  $\text{R}^{16}$  and  $\text{R}^{18}$  have the meanings stated above  
and wherein  $\text{R}^{37}$  is an acyl group, for example the  
acetyl group, with a compound of the formula



wherein  $\text{A}^2$  either has the same meaning as stated above  
for A, or wherein  $\text{-A}^2\text{-CH}_2\text{-}$  has the same meaning as  
25 stated above for A;

separating the isomers at the 7-position of the steroid nucleus to provide the 7 $\alpha$ -isomer; hydrolysing off the dimethyl-t-butylsilyl protecting group; and converting the steroidal part of the molecule to the required structure by conventional reactions. The intermediate product obtained, which has the formula:-

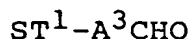


wherein  $ST^1$  has the meaning stated above, may be oxidised to the corresponding carboxylic acid of the formula  $ST^1-A^2-COOH$  which provides the starting material for the first or second process of the invention described above; or it may be converted into a compound of the formula  $ST^1-A^2-CH_2Z^2$  by reaction with a halogenating agent or a sulphonylating agent to provide the starting material for the third process of the invention described above.

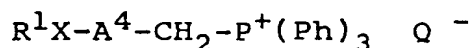
The starting material for the fourth process of the invention described above may be obtained by using the third process of the invention described above except that an amine of the formula  $R^{12}NH_2$  is used in place of an amine of the formula  $HNR^1R^2$ .

The intermediate of the formula  $ST^1-A^2-CH_2OH$  may be oxidised to an aldehyde of the formula  $ST^1-A^2-CHO$  which may then be used, by reaction with an appropriately-substituted hydrocarbyl-triphenylphosphonium salt or hydrocarbyltriethylphosphonate, to prepare a starting material wherein -A- is alkenylene.

An alternative process for the manufacture of a steroid derivative of the invention wherein -A- is alkenylene of the formula  $-A^3-CH=CH-A^4-$  comprises the reaction of a compound of the formula:-



wherein  $ST^1$  and  $A^3$  have the meanings stated above,  
with a triphenylphosphonium salt of the formula:-

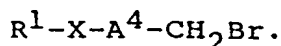


5 wherein  $R^1$ ,  $X$  and  $A^4$  have the meanings stated above  
and wherein  $Q^-$  is an anion, for example the bromide  
ion.

The reaction may be carried out in solution in  
dimethyl sulphoxide in the presence of dimethyl sodium.

10 The steroidal aldehyde starting material when  
- $A^3$ - is - $A^2$ - as defined above may be obtained by  
oxidation of the corresponding alcohol as described  
above. The steroidal aldehyde starting material wherein  
- $A^3$ - is a direct link may be obtained from the 3-keto-  
15  $\Delta^{4,6}$ -initial steroidal starting material described  
above by reaction with cyanide to give the 3-keto- $\Delta^4$ -  
7 $\alpha$ -cyano compound, aromatisation, suitable protection and  
then reduction of the cyano group to the formyl group.

20 The phosphonium starting material may be  
obtained by reaction of triphenylphosphine with a  
bromide of the formula



A steroid derivative of the invention wherein  
ST is a 17 $\beta$ -hydroxy-steroid derivative may be converted  
25 by conventional reactions into the corresponding 17-  
keto steroid derivative, and thence to the corresponding  
17 $\beta$ -hydroxy-17 $\alpha$ -hydrocarbonyl steroid derivative (that  
is, a steroid derivative of the invention wherein  $R^{27}$   
is alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl). Similarly, a steroid  
30 derivative of the invention wherein  $R^3$  and/or  $R^{17}$

are other than hydrogen may be obtained from the corresponding compounds wherein  $R^3$  and/or  $R^{17}$  are hydrogen by conventional etherification or esterification processes, and these may also be used in reverse to prepare the corresponding hydroxy compounds.

A steroid derivative of the invention wherein A is alkenylene may be hydrogenated to provide the corresponding compound wherein A is alkylene.

A steroid derivative of the invention wherein -X- is  $-\text{CH}_2\text{NR}^2-$  or  $-\text{NR}^2\text{CH}_2-$  may be obtained by the reduction, for example with borane, of the corresponding compound wherein -X- is  $-\text{CONR}^2-$  or  $-\text{NR}^2\text{CO}-$ .

A steroid derivative of the invention wherein -X- is  $-\text{CSNH}-$  or  $-\text{NHCS}-$  may be obtained by the reaction of the corresponding compound wherein X is  $-\text{CONH}-$  or  $-\text{NHCO}-$  with 2,4-bis-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1,3-dithia-2,4-diphosphetane-2,4-disulphide.

A steroid derivative of the invention wherein X is  $-(\text{NO})\text{R}^2$ ,  $-\text{SO}-$  or  $-\text{SO}_2-$  may be obtained by the oxidation of the corresponding compound wherein X is  $-\text{NR}^2-$  or  $-\text{S}-$ . The conditions for the oxidation will be chosen to provide the desired product; for example aqueous sodium metaperiodate will oxidise the sulphur group to sulphinyl, and m-chloroperbenzoic acid in chloroform solution will oxidise the sulphur group to sulphonyl or the amine to its oxide.

As stated above, a steroid derivative of the invention possesses antioestrogenic activity. This may be demonstrated by its effect in antagonising the increase in weight of the uterus of an immature female rat produced by administering oestradiol benzoate to said rat. Thus, when a steroid derivative of the invention and oestradiol benzoate are co-administered for 3 days to such a rat, a smaller increase in uterine

weight is produced than the substantial increase which would be produced by the administration of oestradiol benzoate without the steroid derivative of the invention.

5                   In particular, a preferred steroid derivative of the invention produces an antioestrogenic effect at a dose which produces no partial agonist effect, unlike the known antioestrogens tamoxifen and clomiphene. When  
10 a preferred steroid is coadministered with oestradiol benzoate to a rat as described above, no increase in uterine weight whatsoever is observed at a suitable dose.

                  A compound with the above pharmacological properties is of value in the treatment of the same  
15 conditions in which tamoxifen is beneficial, in particular, in the treatment of anovulatory infertility and in the treatment of breast tumours. It is also of value in the treatment of menstrual disorders.

                  When used to produce an anti-oestrogenic  
20 effect in warm-blooded animals, a typical daily dose is from 0.1 to 25 mg/kg. administered orally or by injection. In man this is equivalent to an oral dose of from 5 to 1250 mg./day. A steroid derivative of the  
25 invention is most conveniently administered to man in the form of a pharmaceutical composition.

                  According to a further feature of the invention, there is provided a pharmaceutical composition comprising a steroid derivative of the  
30 invention together with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

                  The composition may be in a form suitable for oral or parenteral administration. A tablet or capsule is a particularly convenient form for oral  
35 administration and such a composition may be made by conventional methods and contain conventional excipients. Thus a tablet could contain diluents, for example mannitol or maize starch, disintegrating agents, for example alginic acid, binding agents, for example



methyl-cellulose, and lubricating agents, for example magnesium stearate.

The composition may contain, in addition to the steroid derivative of the invention, one or more  
5 antiandrogenic agents or antiprogestational agents.

A composition for oral administration may conveniently contain from 5 to 500 mg. of a steroid derivative of the invention.

The invention is illustrated but not limited  
10 by the following Examples:-

Example 1

N-Methylmorpholine (0.24 ml.) and isobutyl chloroformate (0.288 ml.) were successively added to a stirred solution of 11-(17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-3-benzoyloxyoestra-  
15 1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)undecanoic acid (1.0 g.) in methylene chloride (17 ml.) which was cooled to -10°C., and after 30 minutes n-butylamine (0.29 ml.) was added and the mixture was stirred at laboratory temperature for 15 minutes. Saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate  
20 solution (20 ml.) was added and the mixture was extracted four times with methylene chloride (50 ml. each time). The combined extracts were washed with water (10 ml.), dried and evaporated to dryness. There was thus obtained as residue 11-(17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-3-benzoyloxy-N-n-  
25 butyloestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)undecanamide as an oil.

Aqueous N-sodium hydroxide solution (8 ml.) was added to a stirred solution of the above amide (1.06 g.) in a mixture of methanol (16 ml.) and tetra-  
30 hydrofuran (8 ml.) and the mixture was stirred at laboratory temperature for 18 hours, neutralised with aqueous N-hydrochloric acid and the organic solvents were removed by evaporation. Water (40 ml.) was added and the mixture was extracted four times with methylene  
35 chloride (60 ml. each time). The combined extracts were washed with water (10 ml.), dried and evaporated to dryness and the residue was purified by chromatography

on a silica gel (Merck Kieselgel 60) column using a 13:7 v/v mixture of ethyl acetate and toluene as eluant. There was thus obtained N-n-butyl-11-(3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)undecanamide as an oil which was characterised by the following data:-

Proton magnetic resonance spectrum (in CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

	<u>Shift (<math>\delta</math>)</u>	<u>Type of peak</u>	<u>No of protons</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
	7.16	multiplet	1	) aromatic ) protons at
10	6.65	"	2	) positions ) 1, 2 and 4
	3.7		1	position 17
	3.28	quartet	2	-CH <sub>2</sub> -adjacent to -CO-
15	0.90	triplet	3	-CH <sub>3</sub> in n-butyl
	0.78	singlet	3	position 18

Mass Spectrum

$$M^+ = 511.4039 \text{ (C}_{33}\text{H}_{53}\text{O}_3\text{N requires } 511.4024)$$

$$20 \quad M - \text{H}_2\text{O} = 493$$

$$M - (\text{CH}_2\text{CONHC}_4\text{H}_9) = 397$$

Thin layer chromatography (silica gel plates using a 7.3 v/v mixture of ethyl acetate and toluene)

$$R_F = 0.3$$

The 11-(17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-3-benzoyloxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)-undecanoic acid used as starting material was obtained as follows:-

5 A solution of dimethyl-t-butylsilyl chloride (37.3 g.) in tetrahydrofuran (40 ml.) was added to a solution of 11-bromoundecanol (50.18 g.) and imidazole (28.95 g.) in tetrahydrofuran (120 ml.) and the mixture was kept at laboratory temperature for 1.75 hours, diluted with diethyl ether (300 ml.) and filtered. The filtrate  
10 was evaporated to dryness and the residue purified by chromatography on silica gel using a 4:1 v/v mixture of petroleum ether (b.p. 60-80°C.) and toluene as eluant.

A solution of the 11-(dimethyl-t-butylsilyloxy)undecyl bromide thus obtained (73.1 g.) in  
15 tetrahydrofuran (200 ml.) was added during 2 hours to a stirred suspension of magnesium turnings (4.8 g.) in tetrahydrofuran (20 ml.) under normal conditions for preparation of a Grignard reagent, and the mixture was heated under reflux for 2 hours, diluted with  
20 tetrahydrofuran (100 ml.) and cooled to -30°C. Cuprous iodide (19.05 g., dried at 100°C. immediately before use) was added, the mixture was vigorously stirred for 10 minutes and a solution of 6-dehydro-19-nortestosterone acetate (15.48 g.) in tetrahydrofuran (50 ml.) was added.  
25 The mixture was stirred for 40 minutes, acetic acid (12 ml.) was added and the mixture was evaporated to dryness. Water (150 ml.) was added to the residue, and the mixture was extracted four times with diethyl ether (300 ml. each time). The combined extracts were washed  
30 with water (50 ml.), dried and evaporated to dryness, and the residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using a 24:1 v/v mixture of toluene and ethyl acetate as eluant.

A mixture of 17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-7 $\alpha$ -[11-(dimethyl-t-butylsilyloxy)undecyl]oestr-4-ene-3-one thus obtained (11.2 g.), acetic acid (62 ml.), water (31 ml.) and tetrahydrofuran (56 ml.) was stirred at 50°C. for 2.75 hours and was then evaporated to dryness. A solution of the residue in pyridine (56 ml.) and acetic anhydride (28 ml.) was kept at laboratory temperature for 18 hours, cooled to 0°C., water (10 ml.) was added and the mixture was stirred for 45 minutes and then evaporated to dryness. The residue was dissolved in diethyl ether (400 ml.) and the solution was washed with saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (20 ml.) and then with water (20 ml.), dried and evaporated to dryness.

A solution of the 17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-7 $\alpha$ -(11-acetoxyundecyl)oestr-4-ene-3-one thus obtained (8.98 g.) in acetonitrile (50 ml.) was added rapidly to a vigorously stirred suspension of cupric bromide (7.75 g.) and lithium bromide (1.52 g.) in acetonitrile (120 ml.) which was heated under reflux under an atmosphere of argon, and the mixture was stirred and heated for 30 minutes and then cooled. Saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (200 ml.) was added and the mixture was extracted four times with ethyl acetate (200 ml. each time). The combined extracts were washed with water (50 ml.), dried and evaporated to dryness, and the residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using a 9:1 v/v mixture of toluene and ethyl acetate as eluant.

Aqueous N-sodium hydroxide solution (8 ml.) was added to a stirred solution of the 17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-7 $\alpha$ -(11-acetoxyundecyl)oestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-3-ol thus obtained (2.8 g.) in methanol (54 ml.) and the mixture was stirred at laboratory temperature for 70 minutes, neutralised with aqueous N-hydrochloric acid and the methanol was removed by evaporation. The residue was extracted four times with ethyl acetate (60 ml. each time) and the combined extracts

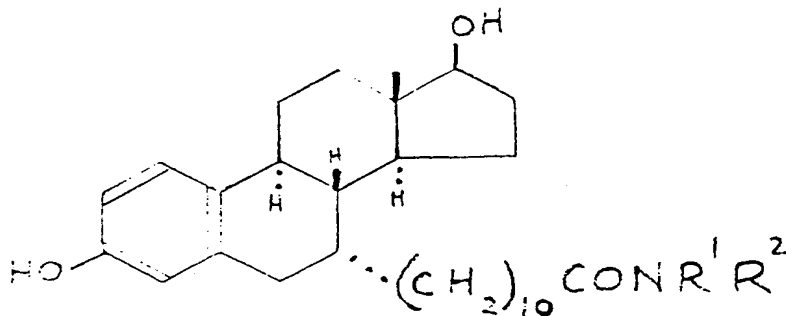
were washed with water (20 ml.), dried and evaporated to dryness. The residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using a 7:3 v/v mixture of toluene and ethyl acetate as eluant.

5                   Aqueous N-sodium hydroxide solution (6 ml.) and benzoyl chloride (0.93 ml.) were added to a stirred solution of the 17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-7 $\alpha$ -(11-hydroxy-undecyl)oestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-3-ol thus obtained (1.94 g.) in acetone (20 ml.) which was cooled to 0°C., and the mixture was  
10 stirred for 20 minutes and then poured into a mixture of ice-water (200 ml.) and saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (50 ml.). The mixture was extracted four times with diethyl ether (120 ml. each time) and the combined extracts were washed twice with saturated aqueous  
15 sodium bicarbonate solution (15 ml. each time) and then with water (20 ml.), dried and evaporated to dryness. The residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using a 7:3 v/v mixture of toluene and ethyl acetate as eluant.

20                   Jones's reagent (8N-chromic acid solution, 2.3 ml.) was added to a solution of the 17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-3-benzoyloxy-7 $\alpha$ -(11-hydroxyundecyl)oestra-1,3,5(10)-triene thus obtained (2.17 g.) in acetone (37 ml.) which was cooled to 0°C. After 15 minutes isopropanol (0.5 ml.) was  
25 added and the mixture was evaporated to dryness. Water (40 ml.) was added and the mixture was extracted three times with methylene chloride (60 ml. each time). The combined extracts were washed twice with water (10 ml. each time), dried and evaporated to dryness, and the  
30 residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using a 7:3 v/v mixture of toluene and ethyl acetate as eluant. There was thus obtained 11-(17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-3-benzoyloxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)-undecanoic acid.

Example 2

The process described in Example 1 was repeated using the appropriate amine in place of n-butylamine. There were thus obtained the compounds described in the following table, all of which were oils the structures of which were confirmed by proton magnetic resonance and mass spectroscopy:-



R <sup>1</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>	
H	H	*
ethyl	H	
n-propyl	H	
isopropyl	H	+
isobutyl	H	+
t-butyl	H	
3-methylbutyl	H	+
1-methylbutyl	H	
2-methylbutyl	H	+
2,2-dimethylpropyl	H	
n-hexyl	H	
1,1-dimethylbutyl	H	+
1,3-dimethylbutyl	H	
cyclohexyl	H	
2,2,2-trifluoroethyl	H	
2,2,3,3,4,4,4-heptafluorobutyl	H	+
2,2-difluorobutyl	H	
3-chloropropyl	H	

R <sup>1</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>
phenyl	H
4-methoxyphenyl	H
4-chlorophenyl	H +
4-cyanophenyl	H
2-ethylphenyl	H
benzyl	H
1-phenylethyl	H
5-carboxypentyl	H **
3-dimethylaminopropyl	H
n-butyl	methyl
2,2-dimethylpropyl	methyl
2-methylbutyl	methyl
n-hexyl	methyl
2,2,3,3,3-pentafluoropropyl	methyl
2,2-difluorobutyl	methyl
4,4,4-trifluorobutyl	methyl
2,2,3,3,4,4,4-heptafluorobutyl	methyl +
benzyl	methyl
n-butyl	ethyl
n-butyl	n-butyl
2,2,2-trifluoroethyl	n-butyl
$-(CH_2)_5-$	
$-(CH_2)_2-N(CH_3)-(CH_2)_2-$	
$-(CH_2)_2-CH(CH_3)-(CH_2)_2-$	+
$-CH_2-CH(CH_3)-CH_2-$	+
$-(CH_2)_2-CHCl-(CH_2)_2-$	
$-(CH_2)_2-CH(C_2H_5)-(CH_2)_2-$	
$-(CH_2)_3-C(CH_3)_2-CH_2-$	

\* A solution of ammonia in tetrahydrofuran was used as starting material.

\*\* Methyl 6-aminohexanoate was used as starting material, the methyl ester being hydrolysed during the second stage of the process.

In some cases (indicated + in the above table) the undecanoic acid used as starting material was the 3-hydroxy- rather than the 3-benzoyloxy-compound, which was prepared by a shortened route as follows:-

The 17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-7 $\alpha$ -(11-acetoxyundecyl)oestr-4-ene-3-one, prepared as described in the 5th paragraph of Example 1, was hydrolysed to the corresponding 11-hydroxyundecyl compound as described in the 7th paragraph of Example 1, and this product was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using a 3:2 v/v mixture of toluene and ethyl acetate as eluant. It was then oxidised to the corresponding undecanoic acid as described in the 9th paragraph of Example 1, and this product was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using a 19:1 v/v mixture of methylene chloride and methanol as eluant. The undecanoic acid was aromatised as described in the 6th paragraph of Example 1, except that the pH of the reaction mixture was adjusted to 3 before extraction into ethyl acetate. The product was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using a 3:1 v/v mixture of diethyl ether and petroleum ether (b.p. 60-80°C.) as eluant. There was thus obtained, as an oil, 11-(17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-3-hydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)undecanoic acid.

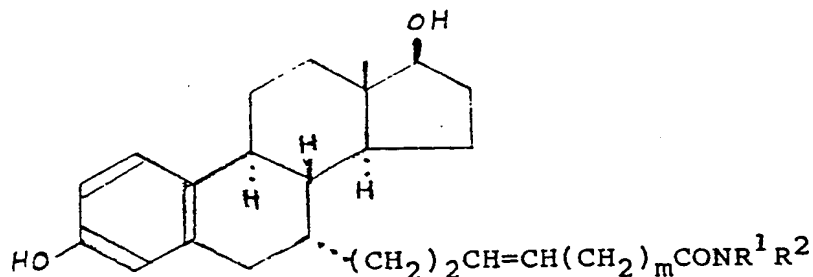
### Example 3

The process described in Example 1 was repeated except that the appropriate (17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-3-hydroxy-oestra-1,3,5-(10)trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)alkenoic acid and the appropriate amine were used as starting materials. There were thus obtained the compounds described in the following table,



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all of which were oils the structures of which were confirmed by proton magnetic resonance and mass spectroscopy:-



m	R <sup>1</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>
3	n-butyl	H
3	n-heptyl	H
3	n-heptyl	methyl
5	n-butyl	H
5	n-pentyl	H
8	ethyl	H
8	n-butyl	H
10	methyl	methyl

5 The initial compounds obtained are (17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-3-isobutyloxy-carbonyloestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)-alkenamides, the hydroxy group at the 3-position being converted into the carbonate during the first stage of the amide-forming reaction by the isobutyl chloroformate.

10 The alkenoic acids used as starting materials were prepared by a process exemplified by the following preparation of 8-(17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-3-hydroxy-oestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)octa-5-enoic acid:-

The process described in the first paragraph of Example 1 relating to the preparation of starting

materials was repeated except that dimethyl-t-butylsilyl chloride was reacted with 3-bromopropanol instead of 11-bromoundecanol. The Grignard reagent from this was reacted with 6-dehydro-19-nortestosterone, and the sequence of reactions described in the succeeding five paragraphs of Example 1 was repeated. There was thus obtained 17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-3-benzoyloxy-7 $\alpha$ -(3-hydroxypropyl)-oestra-1,3,5(10)-triene.

Pyridinium chlorochromate (0.427 g.) was added to a stirred solution of this oestratriene (0.629 g.) in methylene chloride (13 m.) and the mixture was stirred for 2 hours, diluted with diethyl ether (50 ml.) and filtered through a filter-aid. The filtrate was evaporated to dryness and the residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using a 19:1 v/v mixture of toluene and ethyl acetate as eluant. There was thus obtained 3-(17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-3-benzoyloxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)propionaldehyde.

Finely powdered (4-carboxybutyl)triphenylphosphonium bromide (1.4 g.) was degassed by heating in vacuo at 100°C. for 1 hour and was then dissolved in dimethyl-sulphoxide (5 ml.) under an atmosphere of a nitrogen. A 2-molar solution of methanesulphinylmethyl sodium in dimethyl sulphoxide (3.8 ml.) was added dropwise, and a solution of the above aldehyde (0.25 g.) in toluene (2 ml.) was then added. The mixture was stirred for 1 hour and then evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure at a temperature not exceeding 40°C. The residue was shaken with water (5 ml.) and diethyl ether (10 ml.) and the aqueous solution was separated, acidified to pH 3.5 with aqueous 2N-oxalic acid solution and extracted four times with ethyl acetate (10 ml. each time). The combined extracts were washed with water, dried and evaporated to dryness and the residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using a

1:1 v/v mixture of toluene and ethyl acetate as eluant. There was thus obtained 8-(17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-3-hydroxyoestra-1,3,5-(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)octa-5-enoic acid.

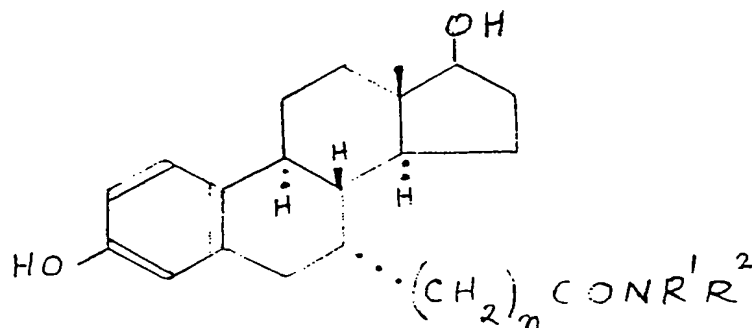
5 The corresponding deca-7-enoic, trideca-10-enoic and pentadeca-12-enoic acids were obtained by using (6-carboxyhexyl)-, (9-carboxynonyl)- or (11-carboxyundecyl)-triphenylphosphonium bromide in place of (4-carboxybutyl)-triphenylphosphonium bromide.

Example 4

10 5% Palladium-on-charcoal catalyst (0.025 g.) was added to a solution of N-n-butyl-8-(3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)oct-5-enamide (Example 3; 0.05 g.) in ethyl acetate (2.5 ml.) and the mixture was stirred at laboratory temperature under an atmosphere of hydrogen for 1 hour and then filtered. The filtrate was  
15 evaporated to dryness and there was thus obtained as oily residue N-n-butyl-8-(3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)octanamide, the structure of which was confirmed by spectroscopic means.

20 The process described above was repeated using the appropriate alkenamide described in Example 3 and there were thus obtained as oils the compounds described in the following table, the structures of all of which were confirmed by spectroscopic means;

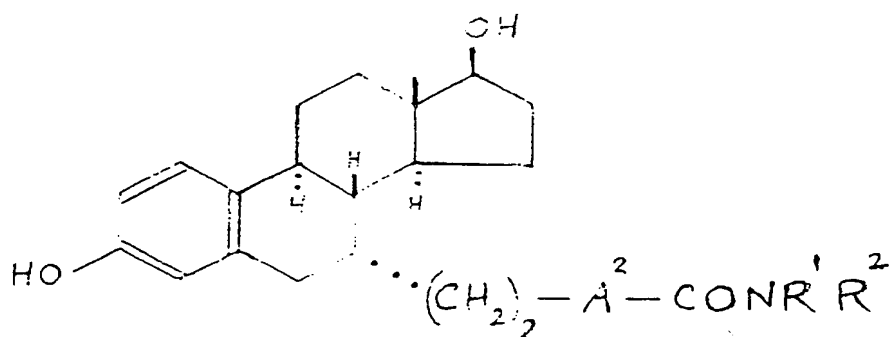
25



n	R <sup>1</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>
7	n-heptyl	H
7	n-heptyl	methyl
9	n-butyl	H
9	n-pentyl	H
12	ethyl	H
12	n-butyl	H
14	methyl	methyl

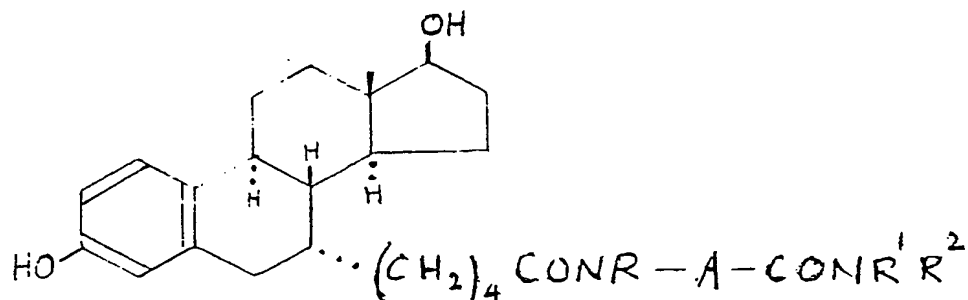
Example 5

The process described in Example 1 was repeated except that either 3, 17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)pent-2-enoic acid or 3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)pentanoic acid, and the appropriate amine, were used as starting materials. There were thus obtained as oils the compounds described in the following tables, the structures of which were confirmed by proton magnetic resonance and mass spectroscopy.

TABLE I

A <sup>2</sup>	R <sup>1</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>
-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> -	n-decyl	H
-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> -	n-decyl	methyl
-CH=CH-	n-decyl	H

TABLE 2



R	A	R <sup>1</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>
H	CH <sub>2</sub>	n-heptyl	H
H	(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	n-hexyl	H
H	(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	n-hexyl	H
methyl	(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	n-hexyl	H
methyl	(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	n-hexyl	methyl

The pentenoic and pentanoic acids used as starting materials were obtained as follows:-

5 Sodium hydride (0.069 g.) was added to a stirred solution of triethylphosphonoacetate (0.413 g.) in tetrahydrofuran (10 ml.) which was maintained at 0°C., and the mixture was stirred at that temperature for 1 hour. A solution of 3-(17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-3-benzoyloxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)propionaldehyde  
 10 (Example 3, second paragraph relating to preparation of starting materials, 0.25 g.) in tetrahydrofuran (5 ml.)

was added and the mixture was stirred at laboratory temperature for 30 minutes, neutralised with acetic acid and evaporated to dryness. The residue was shaken with water (15 ml.), the mixture was extracted three times with ethyl acetate (30 ml. each time) and the combined  
5 extracts were washed with water, dried and evaporated to dryness. There was thus obtained as residue ethyl 5-(17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-3-benzoyloxy-oestra-1,3,5(10-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)pent-2-enoate. Part of this was hydrolysed to the corresponding pent-2-enoic acid with aqueous sodium  
10 hydroxide solution for use as one starting material, and part of it was hydrogenated by a similar process to that described in Example 4, and the ethyl 5-(17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-3-benzoyloxyoestra-1,3,5-(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)pentanoate thus obtained was hydrolysed to the corresponding  
15 dihydroxypentanoic acid with aqueous sodium hydroxide solution for use as the other starting material.

The amidoalkylamines used as starting materials for the compounds described in Table 2 were obtained as follows:-

20 N-n-Hexyl-4-methylaminobutyramide

A solution of 1-methylpyrrolidin-2-one (5 g.) in aqueous 6N-sodium hydroxide solution (50 ml.) containing methanol (0.1 ml.) was heated under reflux for 3 hours, cooled to 0°C. and benzyl chloroformate  
25 (9.5 g.) was added dropwise. The mixture was kept at 0°C. for 12 hours and then poured onto a mixture of equal volumes of ice and concentrated aqueous hydrochloric acid. The mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate and the extract was washed with water,  
30 dried and evaporated to dryness.

Triethylamine (3.7 ml.) and ethyl chloroformate (2.5 ml.) were successively added to a stirred solution of the 4-(N-benzyloxycarbonyl-N-methylamino)butyric acid thus obtained (6.0 g.) in ethyl

acetate (100 ml.) which was cooled to -20°C., and the mixture was stirred at that temperature for 15 minutes. A solution of n-hexylamine (3.2 ml.) in ethyl acetate (30 ml.) was added and the mixture was allowed to warm up to laboratory temperature and stirred at that temperature for 16 hours, then washed successively with dilute aqueous hydrochloric acid, saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution and saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution, dried and evaporated to dryness.

A solution of the 4-(N-benzyloxycarbonyl-N-methylamino)-N-n-hexylbutyramide thus obtained (6.6 g.) in ethanol (100 ml.) was shaken with hydrogen in the presence of a 10% palladium-on-charcoal catalyst (0.6 g.) for 18 hours, filtered and evaporated to dryness. There was thus obtained as residual oil N-n-hexyl-4-methylaminobutyramide.

N-n-Hexyl-N-methyl-4-methylaminobutyramide

As above but using N-n-hexyl-N-methylamine in place of n-hexylamine.

Glycine N-n-heptylamide

As above from glycine and benzyl chloroformate (N-benzyloxycarbonylglycine has m.p. 119-121°C.), then triethylamine, ethyl chloroformate and n-heptylamine.

$\beta$ -Alanine N-n-hexylamide

As above using  $\beta$ -alanine in place of glycine and n-hexylamine in place of n-heptylamine.

N-n-hexyl-4-aminobutyramide

As above using 4-aminobutyric acid in place of glycine and n-hexylamine in place of n-heptylamine.

Example 6

N-Methylmorpholine (0.028 ml.) and isobutyl chloroformate (0.038 ml.) were successively added to a stirred solution of 11-(3-benzyloxy-17 $\beta$ -hydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)undec-10-enoic acid (0.109 g.) in tetrahydrofuran (3 ml.) which was cooled to -10°C. The

mixture was stirred at  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$ . for 30 minutes, N-methyl-isobutylamine (0.05 ml.) was added and the mixture was stirred at laboratory temperature for 2 hours.

Saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (5 ml.) was added and the mixture was extracted 3 times with methylene chloride (10 ml. each time). The combined  
5 extracts were washed with water (2 ml.), dried and evaporated to dryness, and there was thus obtained as oily residue N-isobutyl-N-methyl-11-(3-benzyloxy-17 $\beta$ -hydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)undec-10-enamide.

10 A 10% palladium-on-charcoal catalyst (0.03g.) was added to a solution of the above compound (0.105 g.) in ethyl acetate (10 ml.) and the mixture was stirred at laboratory temperature under an atmosphere of hydrogen for 5 hours, and then filtered. The filtrate was evaporated to dryness and there was thus obtained as  
15 oily residue N-isobutyl-N-methyl-11-(3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)undecanamide, the structure of which was confirmed by proton magnetic resonance spectroscopy and elemental analysis.

20 The undecenoic acid used as starting material was obtained as follows:-

Diethyl aluminium cyanide (100 ml. of a 1.2 molar solution in toluene) was added to a stirred solution of 6-dehydro-19-nortestosterone acetate (9 g.)  
25 in tetrahydrofuran (400 ml.) and the mixture was stirred at laboratory temperature for 1 hour and then poured into a mixture of ice (1000 ml.) and aqueous 2N-sodium hydroxide solution (500 m.). The mixture was extracted 3 times with methylene chloride (300 ml. each time) and  
30 the combined extracts were washed with water (100 ml.), dried and evaporated to dryness. The residue was stirred with petroleum ether (b.p.  $40-60^{\circ}\text{C}$ .; 100 ml.) and there was thus obtained 17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-7 $\alpha$ -cyano-oestr-4-ene-3-one, m.p.  $183-186^{\circ}\text{C}$ .



A solution of the above compound (3.38 g.) in acetonitrile (15 ml.) was added rapidly to a vigorously stirred suspension of cupric bromide (4.46 g.) and lithium bromide (0.85 g.) in acetonitrile (30 ml.) which was heated under reflux under an atmosphere of argon. The mixture was stirred and heated under reflux for 10 minutes and then cooled, and saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (50 ml.) was added. The mixture was extracted 3 times with ethyl acetate (50 ml. each time) and the combined extracts were washed with water (20 ml.), dried and evaporated to dryness. The residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using a 17:3 v/v mixture of toluene and ethyl acetate as eluant, and there was thus obtained 17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-7 $\alpha$ -cyano-oestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-3-ol. Early fractions eluted from the column contained 17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-6-bromo-7 $\alpha$ -cyano-oestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-3-ol which was used in Example 22.

A stirred mixture of the above compound (0.69 g.), benzyl bromide (0.29 ml.), potassium carbonate (0.325 g.) and acetone (20 ml.) was heated under reflux for 16 hours, cooled and filtered and the filtrate was evaporated to dryness. The residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using a 9:1 v/v mixture of toluene and ethyl acetate as eluant, and there was thus obtained 17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-3-benzyloxy-7 $\alpha$ -cyano-oestra-1,3,5(10)-triene.

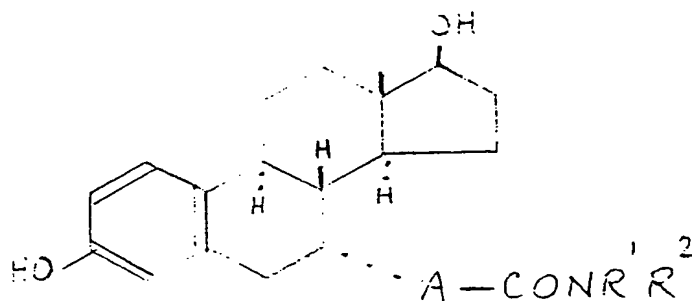
Diisobutyl aluminium hydride (3.1 ml. of a 1.5 molar solution in toluene) was added to a stirred solution of the above compound (0.68 g.) in toluene (10 ml.) and the mixture was stirred at laboratory temperature for 150 minutes. Methanol (2 ml.) and then aqueous 2N-hydrochloric acid (5 ml.) were added and the mixture was stirred for 15 minutes and then extracted three times with ethyl acetate (10 ml. each time). The combined extracts were washed with water (5 ml.), dried

and evaporated to dryness. The residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using a 4:1 v/v mixture of toluene and ethyl acetate as eluant. There was thus obtained 3-benzyloxy-17 $\beta$ -hydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-triene-7 $\alpha$ -carboxaldehyde.

5                    Dimsyl sodium (4 ml. of a 2-molar solution in dimethyl sulphoxide) was added dropwise to a solution of finely powdered (9-carboxynonyl)triphenylphosphonium bromide (1.94 g.) in dimethyl sulphoxide (10 ml.) which  
10                   was maintained under an atmosphere of nitrogen, and a solution of the above aldehyde (0.3 g.) in a mixture of toluene (2 ml.) and dimethyl sulphoxide (2 ml.) was then added. The mixture was stirred at laboratory  
15                   temperature for 1 hour and then evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure, and the residue was shaken with water (5 ml.) and diethyl ether (5 ml.). The aqueous  
20                   solution was separated, acidified to pH 3 with aqueous 2N-oxalic acid solution and extracted three times with diethyl ether (10 ml. each time). The combined extracts  
25                   were washed with water, dried and evaporated to dryness and the residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using an 11:9 v/v mixture of toluene and ethyl acetate as eluant. There was thus obtained  
11-(3-benzyloxy-17 $\beta$ -hydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)undec-10-enoic acid.

#### Example 7

                  The process described in Example 6 was repeated using the appropriate  $\omega$ -(3-benzyloxy-17 $\beta$ -hydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)alkenoic acid and the  
30                   appropriate amine as starting materials. There were thus obtained the compounds described in the following table, all of which were oils the structures of which were confirmed by proton magnetic resonance and mass spectroscopy:-



A	R <sup>1</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>
-(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>11</sub> -	n-propyl	H
-(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>11</sub> -	n-butyl	methyl
-(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>10</sub> -	1-methylbutyl	methyl
-(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>10</sub> -	cyclopentyl	H
-(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>9</sub> -	1H,1H,heptafluorobutyl	methyl
-(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>8</sub> -	n-hexyl	methyl
-(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> CH(CH <sub>3</sub> )-	n-butyl	methyl
-(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> CH(CH <sub>3</sub> )-	n-heptyl	H
-(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>7</sub> -	-CH <sub>2</sub> (CF <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>5</sub> CF <sub>3</sub>	H
-(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>8</sub> CHFCH <sub>2</sub> -	n-butyl	methyl*

\* In the starting material -A- is  
 $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-(\text{CH}_2)_6-\text{CF}=\text{CH}-$ .

5 The steroidal starting materials were prepared as described in the second part of Example 6 except that the appropriate ( $\omega$ -carboxyalkyl)triphenylphosphonium bromide was used as intermediate. The starting material for the last-mentioned compound, marked with an asterisk\*, is unusual in that during the reaction of the  
 10 steroidal-7 $\alpha$ -carboxaldehyde with (9-carboxy-8,8-difluorononyl)triphenylphosphonium bromide a molecule of hydrogen fluoride is eliminated and the starting material is the steroidal-7 $\alpha$ -yl-3-fluoroundeca-2,10-dienoic acid.

The (9-carboxy-8,8-difluorononyl)triphenylphosphonium bromide used as intermediate was obtained as follows:-

5 A solution of 8-bromooctanoyl chloride  
(1.2 g.) in methylene chloride (5 ml.) was added to a  
stirred solution of 2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxane-4,6-dione  
(0.72 g.) and pyridine (0.8 ml.) in methylene chloride  
(20 ml.) which was kept at 5°C., and the mixture was  
10 stirred at that temperature for 1 hour and then at  
laboratory temperature for 90 minutes, washed  
successively with aqueous N-hydrochloric acid (20 ml.)  
and water (20 ml.), dried and evaporated to dryness.  
The residue was heated under reflux with methanol  
(20 ml.) for 16 hours, the excess of methanol was  
removed by evaporation and the residue was distilled  
15 under reduced pressure. There was thus obtained methyl  
10-bromo-3-oxodecanoate, b.p. 135-144°C./1 mm.Hg.

A mixture of the above ester (4.4 g.) and  
sulphur tetrafluoride (10 g.) was heated at 60°C. for 6  
20 hours in a sealed bomb (Hastelloy C) and the resulting  
tar was extracted with methylene chloride (150 ml.).  
The extract was washed with saturated aqueous sodium  
carbonate solution (50 ml.) and then with water  
(20 ml.), dried and evaporated to dryness. The residue  
25 was distilled under reduced pressure and there was thus  
obtained methyl 10-bromo-3,3-difluorodecanoate, b.p.  
175°C./0.2 mm.Hg.

A mixture of the above ester (1.1 g.), acetic  
acid (1 ml.) and 48% aqueous hydrobromic acid (1 ml.)  
30 was heated under reflux for 2 hours and then poured into  
ice-water (20 ml.). The mixture was extracted three  
times with ethyl acetate (10 ml. each time) and the  
combined extracts were washed with water, dried and  
evaporated to dryness. The residue was distilled under  
35 reduced pressure and there was thus obtained 10-bromo-  
3,3-difluorodecanoic acid, b.p. 200°C./0.15 mm.Hg.

Triphenylphosphine (0.565 g.) was added to a solution of the above acid (0.61 g.) in acetonitrile (5 ml.) and the mixture was heated under reflux for 18 hours and then evaporated to dryness. There was thus obtained as residual oil (9-carboxy-8,8-difluorononyl)-triphenylphosphonium bromide which was used without further purification.

Example 8

N-Methylmorpholine (0.107 ml.) and isobutyl chloroformate (0.133 ml.) were successively added to a stirred solution of p-[4-(17 $\beta$ -hydroxy-3-methoxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)but-1-enyl]cinnamic acid (0.17 g.) in methylene chloride (10 ml.) which was cooled to -30°C. under an atmosphere of argon, and the mixture was allowed to warm up to laboratory temperature. n-Hexylamine (0.06 ml.) was added, the mixture was stirred at laboratory temperature for 30 minutes, aqueous 2N-hydrochloric acid (10 ml.) was added and the mixture was extracted three times with diethyl ether (20 ml. each time). The combined extracts were washed with water, dried over magnesium sulphate and evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure. There was thus obtained, as an oil, N-n-hexyl-p-[4-(17 $\beta$ -hydroxy-3-methoxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)but-1-enyl]cinnamide, the structure of which was confirmed by proton magnetic resonance spectroscopy and mass spectroscopy.

Boron tribromide (0.5 ml.) was added to a stirred solution of the above amide (0.12 g.) in methylene chloride (10 ml.) which was cooled to -78°C. under an atmosphere of argon, and the mixture was allowed to warm up to -10°C. and was kept at that temperature for 4 hours. Saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (10 ml.) was added, the mixture was extracted three times with methylene chloride (15 ml. each time) and the combined extracts were washed with

water, dried over magnesium sulphate and evaporated to dryness. There was thus obtained, as an oil, p-[4-(3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)but-1-enyl]-N-n-hexyl-cinnamide, the structure of which was confirmed by  
5 nuclear magnetic resonance and mass spectroscopy.

The cinnamic acid used as starting material was obtained as follows:-

The process described in the first paragraph of Example 1 relating to the preparation of starting  
10 materials was repeated except that dimethyl-t-butyilsilyl chloride was reacted with 3-bromopropanol instead of 11-bromoundecanol. The Grignard reagent from this was reacted with 6-dehydro-19-nortestosterone, and the sequence of reactions described in the succeeding two  
15 paragraphs of Example 1 was repeated. There was thus obtained 17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-7 $\alpha$ -(3-acetoxypropyl)-oestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-3-ol.

Methyl iodide (6 ml.) and potassium carbonate (6g.) were added to a stirred solution of the above  
20 diacetate (5 g.) in acetone (80 ml.), and the mixture was stirred and heated under reflux for 16 hours, cooled and filtered and the filtrate was evaporated to dryness. A solution of the residual 17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-7 $\alpha$ -(3-acetoxypropyl)-3-methoxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-triene (4.7 g.)  
25 in methanol (50 ml.) was cooled to 0°C., potassium carbonate (2.5 g.) was added and the mixture was stirred at 0°C. for 3 hours and then filtered. The filtrate was evaporated to dryness and the residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column (Merck 9385) using  
30 a 4:1 v/v mixture of toluene and ethyl acetate as eluant. There was thus obtained 17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-7 $\alpha$ -(3-hydroxypropyl)-3-methoxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-triene as an oil.

Pyridinium chlorochromate (3.6 g.) was added  
35 to a stirred solution of this oestratriene (3.2 g.) in

methylene chloride (100 ml.) and the mixture was stirred for 2 hours and then filtered. The filtrate was evaporated to dryness and the residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column (Merck 9385) using a 9:1 v/v mixture of toluene and ethyl acetate as eluant. There was thus obtained 3-(17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-3-methoxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)propionaldehyde.

n-Butyl-lithium (0.67 ml. of a 1.5 molar solution in hexane) was added to a stirred solution of diisopropylamine (0.14 ml.) in tetrahydrofuran (30 ml.) which was cooled to 0°C. under an atmosphere of argon. After 10 minutes the mixture was cooled to -78°C. and a solution of ethyl p-(diethylphosphonylmethyl)cinnamate (0.33 g.; b.p. 175°C./15 mm.Hg.; prepared by heating ethyl p-bromomethylcinnamate with triethylphosphite at 120°C. for 2 hours) in tetrahydrofuran (2 ml.) was added dropwise. A solution of the above propionaldehyde (0.19 g.) in tetrahydrofuran (1 ml.) was added and the mixture was allowed to warm up to laboratory temperature and was stirred at that temperature for 16 hours. Aqueous 2N-hydrochloric acid was added and the mixture was extracted three times with diethyl ether (15 ml. each time). The combined extracts were washed with water (20 ml.) and then with saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (20 ml.), dried over magnesium sulphate and evaporated to dryness. The residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column (Merck 9385) using a 17:3 v/v mixture of toluene and ethyl acetate as eluant. There was thus obtained ethyl p-[4-(17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-3-methoxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)but-1-enyl]cinnamate.

Aqueous 2N-sodium hydroxide solution (1 ml.) was added to a stirred solution of the above cinnamate (0.2 g.) in a mixture of methanol (1 ml.) and tetrahydrofuran (1 ml.), and the mixture was stirred at

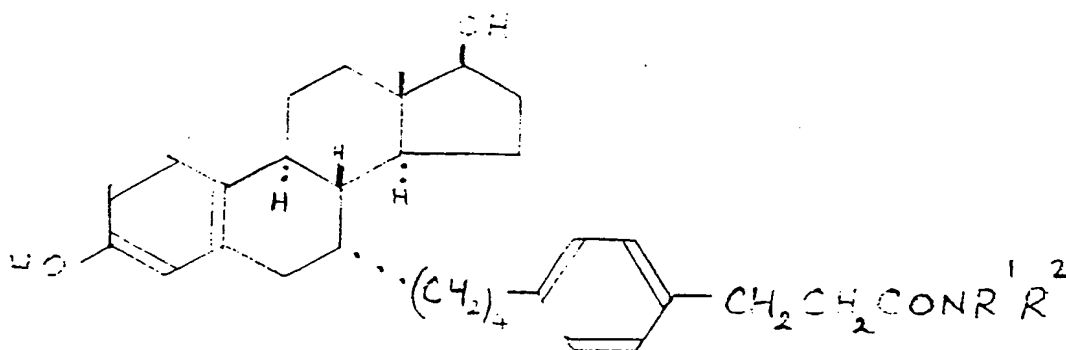
laboratory temperature for 3 hours, acidified with aqueous 2N-hydrochloric acid (2 ml.) and extracted three times with ethyl acetate (10 ml. each time). The combined extracts were washed with water, dried over magnesium sulphate and evaporated to dryness. There was thus obtained as residual gum p-[4-(17 $\beta$ -hydroxy-3-methoxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)but-1-enyl]cinnamic acid.

#### Example 9

A solution of p-[4-(4-(3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)but-1-enyl)-N-n-hexylcinnamide (Example 8; 0.05 g.) in a mixture of ethyl acetate (10 ml.) and ethanol (2 ml.) was stirred with a 20% palladium-on-charcoal catalyst (0.01 g.) under an atmosphere of hydrogen at laboratory temperature and atmospheric pressure for 2 hours, and the mixture was then filtered and evaporated to dryness. There was thus obtained 3-p-[4-(3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)butyl]phenyl-N-n-hexylpropionamide, the structure of which was confirmed by proton magnetic resonance and mass spectroscopy.

#### Example 10

The processes described in Examples 8 and 9 were repeated using the appropriate amine in place of n-hexylamine as starting material in Example 8. There were thus obtained the compounds described in the following table, all of which were oils the structures of which were confirmed by proton magnetic resonance and mass spectroscopy:-

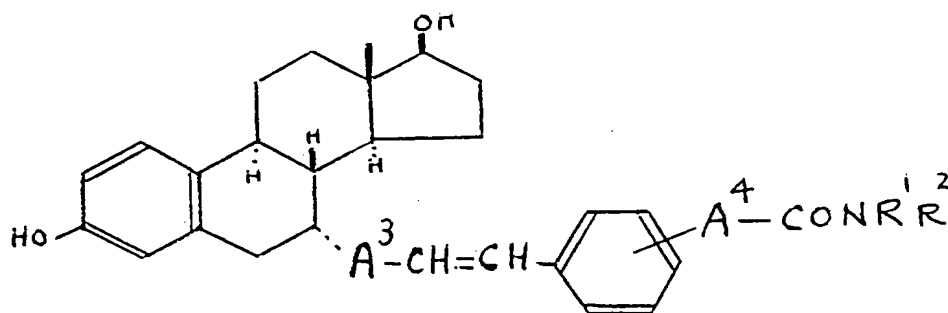




R <sup>1</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>
n-butyl	H
n-butyl	methyl
n-pentyl	H
n-hexyl	methyl
-CH <sub>2</sub> CF <sub>2</sub> CF <sub>2</sub> CF <sub>3</sub>	H
-CH <sub>2</sub> CF <sub>2</sub> Cl	H

Example 11

5       The process described in Example 8 was  
 repeated using the appropriate amine and the appropriate  
 ω-(17β-hydroxy-3-methoxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7α-  
 yl)alk-1-enylcinnamic acid or benzoic acid as starting  
 materials. There were thus obtained the compounds  
 described in the following table, all of which were oils  
 the structures of which were confirmed by proton  
 10       magnetic resonance and mass spectroscopy:-

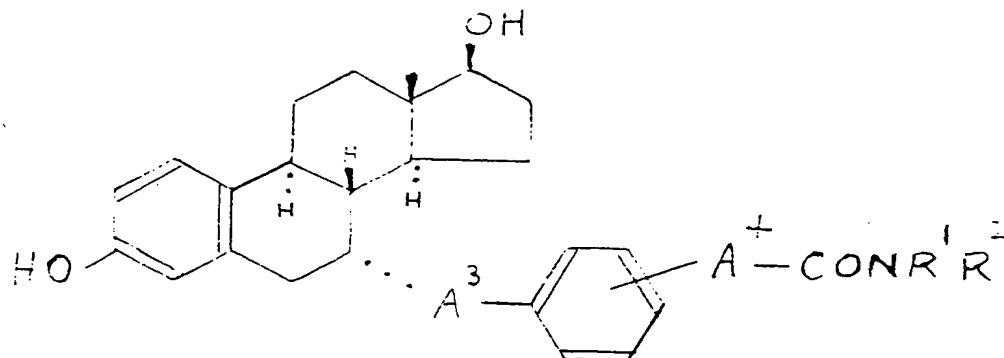


A <sup>3</sup>	Position in benzene ring	A <sup>4</sup>	R <sup>1</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>
-(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> -	meta	-	n-hexyl	H
-(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> -	meta	-CH=CH-	n-hexyl	H
-(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>4</sub> -	para	-CH=CH-	n-butyl	H
-(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>4</sub> -	para	-CH=CH-	n-butyl	methyl
-(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>4</sub> -	para	-	n-pentyl	H
-(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>4</sub> -	para	-	n-hexyl	H
-(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2 4</sub> -	ortho	-	n-hexyl	H

The steroidal starting material wherein A<sup>3</sup> is -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2 4</sub>- was prepared by a similar process to that described in Example 8 except that in the third paragraph thereof 5-bromopentanol was used in place of 3-bromopropanol. The phosphonate intermediates were prepared from the appropriate ethyl bromomethylcinnamate or ethyl bromomethylbenzoate and triethylphosphite.

Example 12

The hydrogenation described in Example 9 was repeated using the appropriate unsaturated compound, described in Example 11, as starting material. There were thus obtained the compounds described in the following table, all of which were oils the structures of which were confirmed by proton magnetic resonance and mass spectroscopy:-



A <sup>3</sup>	Position in benzene ring	A <sup>4</sup>	R <sup>1</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>
-(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>4</sub> -	meta	-	n-hexyl	H
-(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>4</sub> -	meta	-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> -	n-hexyl	H
-(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> -	para	-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> -	n-butyl	H
-(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> -	para	-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> -	n-butyl	methyl
-(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> -	para	-	n-pentyl	H
-(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> -	para	-	n-hexyl	H
-(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> -	ortho	-	n-hexyl	H

### Example 13

The process described in Example 8 was repeated using p-[2-(3-benzyloxy-17 $\beta$ -hydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)ethenyl]cinnamic acid and n-octylamine as starting materials. There was thus obtained, as an oil p-[2-(3-benzyloxy-17 $\beta$ -hydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)ethenyl]-N-n-octylcinnamide.

The hydrogenation process described in the second paragraph of Example 6 was repeated using the above compound as starting material, and there was thus obtained as an oil 3-p-[2-(3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)ethyl]phenyl-N-n-octylpropionamide, the structure of which was confirmed by proton magnetic resonance and mass spectroscopy.

The cinnamic acid used as starting material was obtained from 3-benzyloxy-17 $\beta$ -hydroxyoestra-

1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -carboxaldehyde (described in the sixth paragraph of Example 6) and ethyl p-(diethylphosphonylmethyl)cinnamate by a similar process to that described in the sixth and seventh paragraphs of Example 8.

#### Example 14

Aqueous N-sodium hydroxide solution (0.15 ml.) and benzoyl chloride (0.023 ml.) were successively added at 0°C. to a stirred solution of N-n-butyl-N-methyl-11-(3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)undecanamide (Example 2; 0.06 g.) in acetone (1 ml.) and the mixture was stirred at 0°C. for 30 minutes and poured into saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (10 ml.). The mixture was extracted three times with diethyl ether (15 ml. each time) and the combined extracts were washed with water (3 ml.), dried and evaporated to dryness. The residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using a 3:2 v/v mixture of toluene and ethyl acetate as eluant. There was thus obtained as an oil N-n-butyl-N-methyl-11-(3-benzoyloxy-17 $\beta$ -hydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)undecanamide, the structure of which was confirmed by proton magnetic resonance and mass spectroscopy.

#### Example 15

Sodium hydride (0.005 g. of a 50% dispersion in mineral oil) was added to a stirred solution of N-n-butyl-11-(3,17 $\alpha$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)-N-ethylundecanamide (Example 2; 0.052 g.) in tetrahydrofuran (2 ml.) and the mixture was stirred at laboratory temperature for 3.5 hours. Butyryl chloride (0.014 ml.) was added and the mixture was stirred at laboratory temperature for 16 hours, diluted with ethyl acetate (30 ml.) and filtered. The filtrate was washed with water, dried and evaporated to dryness. The residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel

column using a 1:1 v/v mixture of ethyl acetate and toluene as eluant. There was thus obtained as an oil N-n-butyl-11-(3-butyryloxy-17 $\beta$ -hydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)-N-methylundecanamide, the structure of which was confirmed by proton magnetic resonance and mass spectroscopy.

The process described above was repeated using the appropriate acid chloride or acyl anhydride in place of butyryl chloride, and there were thus obtained the corresponding:

- 3-acetyl
- 3-propionyl
- 3-pivalyl
- 3-decanoyl

esters of N-n-butyl-11-(3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)-N-methylundecanamide.

#### Example 16

Acetic anhydride (0.2 ml.) was added to a stirred solution of N-n-butyl-11-(3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)-N-methylundecanamide (Example 2; 0.052 g.) in pyridine (0.5 ml.) and the mixture was stirred at laboratory temperature for 16 hours. Water (0.1 ml.) was added and then toluene was added and distilled off until the mixture was free of acetic acid. The residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using a 4:1 v/v mixture of toluene and ethyl acetate as eluant, and there was thus obtained as an oil N-n-butyl-11-(3,17 $\beta$ -diacetoxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)-N-methylundecanamide, the structure of which was confirmed by proton magnetic resonance and mass spectroscopy.

The process described above was repeated using succinic anhydride in place of acetic anhydride, and there were thus obtained as oils N-n-butyl-11-[3,17 $\beta$ -di-

( $\beta$ -carboxypropionyl)oestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl]-N-methylundecanamide and N-n-butyl-11-[17 $\beta$ -( $\beta$ -carboxypropionyl)-3-hydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl]-N-methylundecanamide, which were separated one from the other during the chromatographic purification procedure, and the structures of which were confirmed as above.

Example 17

Jones' Reagent (8N-chromic acid solution; 0.15 ml.) was added to a stirred solution of N-n-butyl-N-methyl-11-(3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)-undecanamide (Example 2; 0.262 g.) in acetone (15 ml.) at 0°C., and after 15 minutes isopropanol (0.1 ml.) was added and the mixture was evaporated to dryness. Water (15 ml.) was added and the mixture was adjusted to pH 8 with aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution and then extracted three times with methylene chloride (30 ml. each time). The combined extracts were washed with water (15 ml.), dried and evaporated to dryness, and the residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using a 7:3 v/v mixture of toluene and ethyl acetate as eluant. There was thus obtained N-n-butyl-N-methyl-11-(3-hydroxy-17-oxooestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)undecanamide as an oil, the structure of which was confirmed by proton magnetic resonance and mass spectroscopy.

Example 18

Lithium acetylide-ethylenediamine complex (0.097 g.) was added to a solution of N-n-butyl-N-methyl-11-(3-hydroxy-17-oxoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)undecananamide (Example 17; 0.138 g.) in dimethyl sulphoxide and the mixture was kept at laboratory temperature for 4 hours. Water (0.1 ml.) was added, the mixture was evaporated to dryness and the residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using a 7:3 v/v mixture of toluene and ethyl acetate as eluant. There was thus obtained N-n-butyl-N-methyl-11-(17 $\alpha$ -ethynyl-3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)undecanamide as an oil, the structure of which was confirmed by proton magnetic resonance and mass spectroscopy.

Example 19

The process described in Example 1 was repeated except that 11-(17 $\alpha$ -ethynyl-3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)undecanoic acid and N-methyl-1H,1H-heptafluorobutylamine were used as starting materials. There was thus obtained 11-(17 $\alpha$ -ethynyl-3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)-N-(1H,1H-heptafluorobutyl)-N-methylundecanamide as an oil, the structure of which was confirmed by proton magnetic resonance and mass spectroscopy.

The undecanoic acid used as starting material was obtained as follows:-

The process described in Example 17 was repeated except that the corresponding undecanoic acid was used in place of the undecananamide, and that a 1:1 v/v mixture of toluene and ethyl acetate was used as eluant in the chromatographic purification. To a solution of the 11-(3-hydroxy-17-oxooestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)undecanoic acid thus obtained (0.075 g.) in dimethyl sulphoxide (1 ml.) was added a 2-molar solution of dimethyl sodium in dimethyl sulphoxide (2 ml.) which had been saturated with acetylene gas, and the mixture was kept at laboratory temperature for 18 hours, diluted with water (15 ml.,) acidified to pH 1 with aqueous N-hydrochloric acid, and extracted three times with ethyl acetate (10 ml. each time). The combined extracts were washed with water, dried and evaporated to dryness and the residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using a 1:1 v/v mixture of toluene and ethyl acetate as eluant. There was thus obtained the desired 11-(17 $\alpha$ -ethynyl-3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)undecanoic acid.

#### Example 20

A stirred mixture of cupric acetate (0.027 g.), iodine (0.038 g.), N-n-butyl-N-methyl-11-(3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)undecanamide (Example 2; 0.052 g.) and acetic acid (2 ml.) was heated at 55°C. for 18 hours and then poured into a mixture of ice (10 ml.) and saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (5ml.). The mixture was extracted three times with ethyl acetate (15 ml. each time) and the combined extracts were washed with water, dried and evaporated to dryness. The residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using a 3:2 v/v mixture of toluene and ethyl acetate as eluants and there were thus separately obtained N-n-butyl-N-methyl-11-(3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxy-2-iodooestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)undecanamide (eluted first) and N-n-butyl-N-methyl-11-(3,17 $\beta$ -



dihydroxy-4-iodooestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)undecanamide (eluted second).

Example 21

5 The process described in the first two paragraphs of Example 1 was repeated except that 11-(17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-3-hydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10),6-tetraen-7-yl)undecanoic acid and N-methyl-N-butylamine were used as starting materials. There was thus obtained as an oil N-n-butyl-N-methyl-11-(3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-10 1,3,5(10),6-tetraen-7-yl)undecanamide, the structure of which was confirmed by proton magnetic resonance and mass spectroscopy.

The oestra-tetraene used as starting material was obtained as follows:-

15 A solution of bromine (0.114 ml.) in acetic acid (2 ml.) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of 11-(17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-3-oxo-oestra-4-en-7 $\alpha$ -yl)undecanoic acid (Example 2; 0.5 g.) in a mixture of diethyl ether (5 ml.) and acetic acid (2 ml.) which was cooled to 20 15°C. and the mixture was stirred at that temperature for 30 minutes and then poured into water (50 ml.). The mixture was extracted three times with methylene chloride (30 ml. each time) and the combined extracts were washed with water, dried and rapidly evaporated to 25 dryness under reduced pressure at a bath temperature below 20°C. A solution of the residue, which consisted of 11-(17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-2,6-dibromo-3-oxooestr-4-en-7 $\alpha$ -yl)undecanoic acid in dimethylformamide (3 ml.) was immediately added to a stirred mixture of lithium 30 bromide (1.0 g.), lithium carbonate (1.0 g.) and dimethylformamide (10 ml.) which was heated under reflux, and the mixture was stirred and heated under reflux for 30 minutes and then evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure. Water (20 ml.) was added to the 35 residue and the mixture was acidified to pH 1 with

aqueous N-hydrochloric acid and extracted three times with methylene chloride (20 ml. each time). The combined extracts were washed with water, dried and evaporated to dryness and the residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using a 7:3 v/v mixture of toluene and ethyl acetate as eluant. There was thus obtained as an oil 11-(17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-3-hydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10),6-tetraen-7-yl)undecanoic acid.

Example 22

Butyl-lithium (0.8 ml. of a 1.6 molar solution in hexane) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of [9-(N-n-butyl-N-methylcarbamoyl)nonyl]triphenylphosphonium bromide (1.2 g.) in a mixture of dimethyl sulphoxide (2 ml.) and tetrahydrofuran (18 ml.), a solution of 3-benzyloxy-17 $\beta$ -hydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10),6,8(9),14(15)-hexaene-7-carboxaldehyde (0.05 g.) in tetrahydrofuran (2 ml.) was then added and the mixture was stirred at laboratory temperature for 1 hour and then evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure. Water (15 ml.) was added and the mixture was extracted three times with ethyl acetate (10 ml. each time) and the combined extracts were washed with water, dried and evaporated to dryness. The residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using a 3:1 v/v mixture of petroleum ether (b.p. 60-80°C.) and acetone as eluant. There was thus obtained as an oil 11-(3-benzyloxy-17 $\beta$ -hydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10),6,8(9),14(15)-hexaen-7-yl)-N-n-butyl-N-methylundec-10-enamide.

The above compound was hydrogenated by a similar process to that described in Example 4 and there was thus obtained as an oil N-n-butyl-N-methyl-11-(3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10),6,8(9)-pentaen-7-yl)undecanamide, the structure of which was confirmed by proton magnetic resonance and mass spectroscopy.

The phosphonium bromide used as starting material was obtained as follows:-

5        Triethylamine (6.5 ml.) and N-methyl-N-n-butylamine (5.5. ml.) were successively added to a stirred solution of 10-bromodecanoyl chloride (13 g.) in diethyl ether (100 ml.) which was maintained at 0°C. and the mixture was stirred at that temperature for 2 hours. Water (20 ml.) was added and the ethereal layer was separated, dried and evaporated to dryness.

10       Triphenylphosphine (10.95 g.) was added to a stirred solution of the 10-bromo-N-n-butyl-N-methyldecanamide thus obtained (12.2 g.) in acetonitrile (125 ml.) and the mixture was stirred and heated under reflux for 16 hours and then evaporated to dryness under reduced

15       pressure. The residue was dissolved in methylene chloride (50 ml.), diethyl ether (200 ml.) was added and the solvent was decanted off. There was thus obtained as solid residue [9-(N-n-butyl-N-methylcarbamoyl)nonyl]-triphenylphosphonium bromide which was used without

20       further purification.

The steroidal carboxaldehyde used as starting material was obtained as follows:-

25       17 $\beta$ -Acetoxy-6-bromo-7 $\alpha$ -cyanoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-3-ol (Example 6, paragraph 4) was converted to the 3-benzyloxy derivative thereof by a similar process to that described in paragraph 5 of Example 6, and this compound was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using a 19:1 v/v mixture of toluene and ethyl acetate as eluant.

30       2,3-Dichloro-5,6-dicyano-1,4-benzoquinone (1.03 g.) was added to a stirred solution of the above 3-benzyloxy compound (0.51 g.) in toluene (25 ml.) and the mixture was stirred and heated under reflux for 1 hour, cooled, diluted with diethyl ether (40 ml.) and

35       washed three times with saturated aqueous sodium

bicarbonate solution and once with water (50 ml. each time). The organic layer was dried and evaporated to dryness and the residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using a 19:1 v/v mixture of toluene and ethyl acetate as eluant. There was thus obtained 17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-3-benzyloxyoestra-1,3,5(10),6,8(9),14(15)-hexaene-7-carbonitrile, which was reduced to the corresponding 7-carboxaldehyde by a similar process to that described in paragraph 6 of Example 6.

Example 23

2,4-Bis-(p-methoxyphenyl)-1,3-dithia-2,4-diphosphetane-2,4-disulphide (Lawesson's Reagent; 0.375 g.) was added to a stirred solution of N-n-butyl-11-(3-methoxy-17 $\beta$ -tetrahydropyranyloxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)undecanamide (0.25 g.) in xylene (14 ml.) and the mixture was stirred and heated at 130°C. for 5 hours and then evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in a mixture of tetrahydrofuran (2 ml.), water (2 ml.) and acetic acid (4 ml.) and the solution was stirred at laboratory temperature for 16 hours and then evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using a 4:1 v/v mixture of toluene and ethyl acetate as eluant, and there was thus obtained as an oil N-n-butyl-11-(17 $\beta$ -hydroxy-3-methoxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)thioundecanamide.

Boron tribromide (0.5 ml.) was added to a stirred solution of the above thioamide (0.061 g.) in methylene chloride (3 ml.) which was cooled to -20°C., and the mixture was stirred at that temperature for 4 hours and then poured into saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (2 ml.). The mixture was extracted three times with methylene chloride (2 ml. each time)

and the combined extracts were washed with water, dried and evaporated to dryness. The residue was purified by chromatography as described above and there was thus obtained as an oil N-n-butyl-11-(3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)thioundecanamide, the structure of which was confirmed by proton magnetic resonance and mass spectroscopy.

The tetrahydropyranyloxy-undecanamide used as starting material was obtained as follows:-

The procedure described in the third, fourth, fifth and sixth paragraphs of Example 6 was repeated except that methyl iodide was used in place of benzylbromide in the fifth paragraph. There was thus obtained 17 $\beta$ -hydroxy-3-methoxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -carboxaldehyde. Dihydropyran (2.4 ml.) and p-toluenesulphonic acid (4.46 ml. of an 0.1 molar solution in tetrahydrofuran) were successively added to a stirred solution of this aldehyde (2.8 g.) in methylene chloride (50 ml.) which was kept at 0°C., and after 5 minutes pyridine (0.2 ml.) was added and the mixture was washed with saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (5 ml.), dried and evaporated to dryness. The residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using a 9:1 v/v mixture of toluene and ethyl acetate as eluant.

The 3-methoxy-17 $\beta$ -tetrahydropyranyloxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -carboxaldehyde thus obtained was then converted to the desired amide by a similar procedure to that described in the last paragraph of Example 6 [reaction with (9-carboxynonyl)triphenylphosphonium bromide] followed by that described in the first paragraph of Example 6, except that n-butylamine was used in place of N-methylisobutylamine.

#### Example 24

Triethylamine (0.053 g.) and methanesulphonyl chloride (0.044 g.) were successively added to a stirred

5 solution of 17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-3-benzoyloxy-7 $\alpha$ -(11-hydroxyundecyl)oestra-1,3,5(10)-triene (penultimate paragraph of Example 1; 0.206 g.) in methylene chloride (3 ml.) at -10°C., and the mixture was stirred for 30 minutes and then shaken with diethyl ether (30 ml.) and saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution. The layers were separated, the aqueous layer was extracted with diethyl ether (30 ml.) and the combined ethereal solutions were washed with water (5 ml.), dried and  
10 evaporated to dryness. A mixture of the 11-methanesulphonyloxyundecyl compound thus obtained (0.228 g.) and diethylamine (4 ml.) was heated under reflux for 16 hours and evaporated to dryness. The residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column (Kieselgel 60) using a 4% v/v solution of triethylamine in toluene as eluant. There was thus  
15 obtained as an oil 17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-3-benzoyloxy-7 $\alpha$ -(11-diethylaminoundecyl)oestra-1,3,5(10)-triene, the structure of which was confirmed by proton magnetic resonance and mass spectroscopy.

The above compound was hydrolysed by a similar process to that described in the second part of Example 1. There was thus obtained as an oil 7 $\alpha$ -(11-diethylaminoundecyl)oestra-1,3,5(10)-triene-3,17 $\beta$ -diol, the structure of which was confirmed by proton magnetic  
25 resonance and mass spectroscopy.

#### Example 25

A mixture of 17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-3-benzoyloxy-7 $\alpha$ -(11-methanesulphonyloxyundecyl)oestra-1,3,5(10)-triene (Example 24; 0.1 g.) and saturated methanolic ammonia solution (10 ml.) was heated in a sealed tube at 100°C. for 16 hours and was then evaporated to dryness. Butyryl chloride (0.2 ml.) was added to a stirred solution of the residue in pyridine (1 ml.) and the  
35 mixture was stirred at laboratory temperature for 16

hours, and then poured into water (10 ml.). The mixture was extracted three times with diethyl ether (10 ml. each time) and the combined extracts were washed with water (2 ml.), dried and evaporated to dryness. Aqueous N-sodium hydroxide solution (1 ml.) was added to a solution of the residue in methanol (5 ml.) and the mixture was kept at laboratory temperature for 18 hours, neutralised with aqueous N-hydrochloric acid and extracted three times with ethyl acetate (10 ml. each time). The combined extracts were washed with water (5 ml.), dried and evaporated to dryness and the residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using a 1:1 v.v mixture of toluene and ethyl acetate as eluant. There was thus obtained as an oil N-[N-(3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)undecyl]-butyramide, the structure of which was confirmed by proton magnetic resonance and mass spectroscopy.

Example 26

The process described in the last paragraph of Example 6 was repeated except that (8-hexanamido-octyl)triphenylphosphonium bromide was used in place of (9-carboxynonyl)triphenylphosphonium bromide. The hydrogenation process described in the second paragraph of Example 6 was then repeated using the N-[9-(3-benzyloxy-17 $\beta$ -hydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)non-8-enyl]hexanamide thus obtained as starting material, and there was thus obtained as an oil N-[9-(3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)nonyl]hexanamide, the structure of which was confirmed by proton magnetic resonance and mass spectroscopy.

The (8-hexanamido-octyl)triphenylphosphonium bromide used as starting material was obtained as follows:-

Triethylamine (0.35 ml.) and hexanoyl chloride (0.35 ml.) were successively added to a stirred solution of 8-bromooctylamine (0.5 g.) in diethyl ether (5 ml.) and the mixture was stirred at laboratory temperature for 1 hour. Saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (5 ml.) was added, the ethereal layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted three times with diethyl ether (5 ml. each time). The combined ethereal solutions were washed with water (2 ml.), dried and evaporated to dryness. Triphenylphosphine (0.331 g.) was added to a stirred solution of the above N-(8-bromoethyl)hexanamide (0.385 g.) in acetonitrile (10 ml.) and the mixture was stirred and heated under reflux for 16 hours and then evaporated to dryness. The residue was stirred with diethyl ether and the ethereal solution was decanted off. There was thus obtained as residual gum (8-hexanamido-octyl)triphenylphosphonium bromide which was used without further purification.

Example 27

The procedure described in the last paragraph of Example 6 was repeated except that (7-N-methylcarbamoylheptyl)triphenylphosphonium bromide (prepared from 8-bromo-N-methyloctanamide and triphenylphosphine by a similar process to that described in the last part of Example 22) was used in place of (9-carboxynonyl)triphenylphosphonium bromide. The hydrogenation process described in the second paragraph of Example 6 was then repeated using the 9-(3-benzyloxy-17 $\beta$ -hydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)-N-methylnon-8-enamide thus obtained as starting material, and there was thus obtained as an oil 9-(3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)-N-methyl-nonanamide, the structure of which was confirmed by proton magnetic resonance and mass spectroscopy.



Example 28

A mixture of 9-(3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)-N-methylnonanamide (Example 27; 0.047 g.) and a molar solution of borane in tetrahydrofuran (5 ml.) was heated under reflux for 2 hours, cooled and concentrated aqueous hydrochloric acid (2 ml.) was added. The tetrahydrofuran was removed by evaporation and the residue was basified with aqueous 5N-sodium hydroxide solution and extracted three times with ethyl acetate (10 ml. each time). The combined extracts were washed with water (2 ml.), dried and evaporated to dryness. There was thus obtained as an oil 7 $\alpha$ -(9-methylaminononyl)oestra-1,3,5(10)-triene-3,17 $\beta$ -diol, the structure of which was confirmed by proton magnetic resonance and mass spectroscopy.

Example 29

Hexanoyl chloride (0.5 ml.) was added to a solution of 7 $\alpha$ -(9-methylaminononyl)oestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-3,17 $\beta$ -diol (Example 28; 0.037 g.) in pyridine (5 ml.) and the mixture was kept at laboratory temperature for 16 hours and then extracted with ethyl acetate (20 ml.). The extract was washed successively with aqueous 2N-hydrochloric acid (5 ml.), saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (5 ml.) and water (2ml.), dried and evaporated to dryness. The residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using a 9:1 v/v mixture of toluene and ethyl acetate as eluant, and there was thus obtained N-[9-(3,17 $\beta$ -dihexanoyloxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)nonyl]-N-methylhexanamide. A solution of this compound (0.027 g.) in methanol (5 ml.) and aqueous 2N-sodium hydroxide solution (2 m.) were stirred at laboratory temperature for 16 hours and the mixture was then extracted three times with ethyl acetate (10 ml. each time). The combined extracts were washed with water,

dried and evaporated to dryness and there was thus obtained as residual oil N-[9-(3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)nonyl]-N-methylhexanamide, the structure of which was confirmed by proton magnetic resonance and mass spectroscopy.

Example 30

N-Methylmorpholine (0.028 ml.) and isobutyl chloroformate (0.038 ml.) were successively added to a stirred solution of 7 $\alpha$ -(9-methylaminononyl)oestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-3,17 $\beta$ -diol (Example 28; 0.08 g.) in tetrahydrofuran (3 ml.) and the mixture was stirred at laboratory temperature for 150 minutes. Saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (2 ml.) was added and the mixture was extracted three times with methylene chloride (10 ml. each time). The combined extracts were washed with water (5 ml.), dried and evaporated to dryness and there was thus obtained as residual oil isobutyl N-[9-(3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)nonyl]-N-methylcarbamate.

Example 31

The process described in Example 25 was repeated except that 17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-3-methoxy-7 $\alpha$ -(9-methanesulphonyloxynonyl)oestra-1,3,5(10)-triene was reacted with ammonia, and that the resulting 9-aminononyl compound was reacted with n-butyl isocyanate.

The 17 $\beta$ -acetoxy group was removed by hydrolysis with aqueous methanolic sodium hydroxide solution, and the 3-methoxy group was converted to a hydroxy group with boron tribromide by a similar process to that described in the second paragraph of Example 8. There was thus obtained N<sup>1</sup>-n-butyl-N<sup>3</sup>-[9-(3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)nonyl]urea, the structure of which was confirmed by proton magnetic resonance and mass spectroscopy.

The steroidal starting material was prepared by a similar process to that described in Examples 1 and

24, except that 9-bromononanol was used in place of 11-bromoundecanol in the third paragraph of Example 1, and that the benzylation step described in the eighth paragraph of Example 1 was replaced by the methylation step described in the fourth paragraph of Example 8.

#### Example 32

A solution of sodium thiobutoxide [generated from butanethiol (0.045 g.) and a 60% dispersion of sodium hydride in mineral oil (0.02 g.)] in tetrahydrofuran (2 ml.) was added to a solution of 17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-3-benzoyloxy-7 $\alpha$ -(11-methanesulphonyloxyundecyl)estra-1,3,5(10)-triene (Example 24; 0.078 g.) in tetrahydrofuran (1 ml.) and the mixture was kept for 1 hour at laboratory temperature, neutralised with aqueous N-hydrochloric acid and extracted three times with ethyl acetate (10 ml. each time). The combined extracts were washed with water (3 ml.), dried and evaporated to dryness, and the residue was dissolved in methanol (3 ml.). Aqueous N-sodium hydroxide solution (1 ml.) was added and the mixture was kept at laboratory temperature for 18 hours, neutralised with aqueous N-hydrochloric acid and extracted three times with ethyl acetate (10 ml. each time). The combined extracts were washed with water (10 ml.), dried and evaporated to dryness and the residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using a 4:1 v/v mixture of toluene and ethyl acetate as eluant. There was thus obtained as an oil 7 $\alpha$ -(11-n-butylthioundecyl)estra-1,3,5(10)-triene-3,17 $\beta$ -diol, the structure of which was confirmed by proton magnetic resonance and mass spectroscopy.

#### Example 33

A solution of sodium metaperiodate (0.016 g.) in water (0.5 ml.) was added to a solution of 7 $\alpha$ -(11-n-butylthioundecyl)estra-1,3,5(10)-triene-3,17 $\beta$ -diol

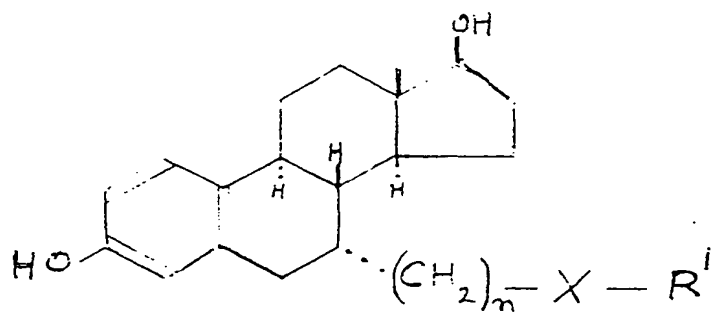
(Example 32; 0.035 g.) in methanol (1 ml.) and the mixture was stirred at laboratory temperature for 18 hours, evaporated to dryness and evaporated from toluene to remove the last traces of water. The residue was  
5 extracted three times with acetone and the combined extracts were evaporated to dryness. There was thus obtained as an oil 7 $\alpha$ -(11-n-butylsulphinylundecyl)-oestra-1,3,5(10)-triene-3,17 $\beta$ -diol, the structure of which was confirmed by proton magnetic resonance and  
10 mass spectroscopy.

Example 34

m-Chloroperbenzoic acid (0.026 g.) was added to a solution of 7 $\alpha$ -(11-n-butylthioundecyl)oestra-1,3,5(10)-triene-3,17 $\beta$ -diol (Example 32; 0.035 g.) in  
15 chloroform (1 ml.) and the mixture was kept for 2 hours at laboratory temperature and then evaporated to dryness. The residue was shaken with water (2 ml.) and the mixture extracted three times with ethyl acetate (10 ml. each time). The combined extracts were washed with  
20 saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution and then with water, dried and evaporated to dryness. There was thus obtained as residual oil 7 $\alpha$ -(11-n-butylsulphonylundecyl)oestra-1,3,5(10)-triene-3,17 $\beta$ -diol, the structure of which was confirmed by proton  
25 magnetic resonance and mass spectroscopy.

Example 35

The process described in Examples 32, 33 and 34 was repeated using the appropriate thiol and the appropriate 7 $\alpha$ -( $\omega$ -methanesulphonyloxyalkyl)-steroidal  
30 derivative as initial starting materials in the process of Example 32. There were thus obtained as oils the compounds described in the following table:-



n	X	R <sup>I</sup>
6	S	n-nonyl
9	S	n-hexyl
9	S	n-heptyl
9	S	4,4,5,5,5-pentafluoropentyl
9	S	<u>p</u> -chlorophenyl
9	S	<u>p</u> -chlorobenzyl
9	S	<u>p</u> -chlorophenethyl
10	S	n-pentyl
10	S	4,4,4-trifluorobutyl
10	S	4,4,5,5,5-pentafluoropentyl
10	S	1H,1H-heptafluorobutyl
10	S	<u>m</u> -chlorophenyl
10	S	<u>p</u> -chlorophenyl
10	S	<u>p</u> -fluorophenyl
10	S	<u>p</u> -bromophenyl
10	S	<u>p</u> -chlorobenzyl
10	S	<u>p</u> -chlorophenethyl
11	S	4,4,4-trifluorobutyl
6	SO	n-nonyl
9	SO	n-hexyl
9	SO	n-heptyl
9	SO	4,4,5,5,5-pentafluoropentyl
9	SO	<u>p</u> -chlorophenyl

n	X	R <sup>1</sup>
9	SO	<u>p</u> -chlorobenzyl
9	SO	<u>p</u> -chlorophenethyl
10	SO	n-pentyl
10	SO	4,4,4-trifluorobutyl
10	SO	4,4,5,5,5-pentafluoropentyl
10	SO	1H,1H-heptafluorobutyl
10	SO	<u>p</u> -chlorophenyl
10	SO	<u>p</u> -fluorophenyl
10	SO	<u>p</u> -bromophenyl
10	SO	<u>p</u> -chlorobenzyl
10	SO	<u>p</u> -chlorophenethyl
11	SO	4,4,4-trifluorobutyl
9	SO <sub>2</sub>	n-heptyl
10	SO <sub>2</sub>	<u>p</u> -chlorobenzyl
10	SO <sub>2</sub>	<u>p</u> -chlorophenethyl

The 7 $\alpha$ -( $\omega$ -methanesulphonyloxyalkyl)-steroidal derivatives used as starting materials were obtained as described in Example 24 from the corresponding 7 $\alpha$ -( $\omega$ -hydroxyalkyl)-steroidal derivatives which in turn were obtained as described in Example 1 using the appropriate  $\omega$ -(dimethyl-t-butylsilyloxy)alkyl bromide in place of 11-(dimethyl-t-butylsilyloxy)undecyl bromide as intermediate.

#### Example 36

The process described in the penultimate paragraph of Example 3 was repeated except that [4-(N-heptylsulphamoyl)butyl]triphenylphosphonium bromide was used in place of (4-carboxybutyl)triphenylphosphonium bromide. There was thus obtained as an oil N-heptyl-7-

(3,17~~6~~-dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7~~α~~-yl)hept-4-  
enesulphonamide, the structure of which was confirmed by  
proton magnetic resonance and mass spectroscopy. Both  
the 3-benzoyl and 17-acetyl groups were removed during  
the reaction, by contrast with Example 3 wherein only  
the 3-benzoyl group was removed.

The phosphonium bromide used as starting  
material was obtained as follows:-

Sodium iodide (1.1 g.) was added to a solution  
of 1,4-butanedisulphone (1.0 g.) in acetone (10 ml.) and  
the mixture was heated under reflux for 1 hour, cooled  
and filtered. Dimethylformamide (0.05 ml.) and oxalyl  
chloride (0.475 ml.) were successively added to a  
stirred solution of the sodium 4-iodobutanedisulphonate  
thus obtained (1.32 g.) in toluene (20 ml.) and the  
mixture was stirred at laboratory temperature for 3  
hours, filtered and the filtrate was evaporated to  
dryness.

Triethylamine (0.65 ml.) and n-heptylamine  
(0.68 ml.) were successively added to a solution of the  
4-iodobutanedisulphonyl chloride thus obtained (1.3 g.) in  
diethyl ether (30 ml.) and the mixture was kept at  
laboratory temperature for 2 hours and then evaporated  
to dryness. The residue was dissolved in ethyl acetate  
and the solution was washed twice with water (5 ml. each  
time), dried and evaporated to dryness. The residue was  
purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using  
methylene chloride as eluant, and there was thus  
obtained N-heptyl-4-iodobutanedisulphonamide.

A mixture of the above sulphonamide (0.25 g.),  
triphenylphosphine (0.18 g.) and toluene (10 ml.) was  
heated under reflux for 2 hours and then cooled, and the  
toluene solution was decanted off the oil which formed.  
The oil was washed with more toluene, and then used  
without further purification. It consisted of

4-(N-heptylsulphamoyl)butyl]triphenylphosphonium  
bromide.

Example 37

5 A solution of N-heptyl-7-(3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxy-  
oestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)hept-4-enesulphonamide  
(Example 36; 0.04 g.) in ethyl acetate (10 ml.) was  
stirred with a 10% palladium-on-charcoal catalyst  
(0.01 g.) at laboratory temperature for 90 minutes and  
then filtered, and the filtrate was evaporated to  
10 dryness. There was thus obtained as residual oil N-  
heptyl-7-(3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)-  
heptanesulphonamide, the structure of which was  
confirmed by proton magnetic resonance and mass  
spectroscopy.

15 Example 38

n-Butyl-lithium (0.27 ml. of a 1.5 molar  
solution in diethyl ether) was added to a stirred  
solution of 11-(17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-3-hydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-  
trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)undecanoic acid (Example 2; 0.046 g.) in  
20 tetrahydrofuran (1 ml.) and the mixture was stirred at  
laboratory temperature for 2 hours. Saturated aqueous  
sodium hydrogen tartrate solution (2 ml.) was added and  
the mixture was extracted three times with ethyl acetate  
(5 ml. each time). The combined extracts were washed  
25 with water, dried and evaporated to dryness and the  
residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel  
column using a 17:3 v/v mixture of toluene and ethyl  
acetate as eluant. There was thus obtained as an oil  
15-(3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -  
30 yl)pentadecan-5-one, the structure of which was  
confirmed by proton magnetic resonance and mass  
spectroscopy.

Example 39

35 n-Butyl-lithium (0.341 ml. of a 1.6 molar  
solution in hexane) was added to a stirred solution of



2-oxotridecylphosphonate (0.193 g.) in tetrahydrofuran (10 ml.) which was maintained at  $-70^{\circ}\text{C}$ . and the mixture was stirred at that temperature for 40 minutes. A solution of 3-(17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-3-benzoyloxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)propionaldehyde (Example 3; 0.2 g.) in tetrahydrofuran (10 ml.) was added and the mixture was allowed to warm up to laboratory temperature and was stirred at that temperature for 4.5 hours. Acetic acid was added until the mixture was acidic and the mixture was evaporated to dryness. Water (10 ml.) was added and the mixture was extracted three times with ethyl acetate (30 ml. each time). The combined extracts were washed with water, dried and evaporated to dryness and there was thus obtained as residual oil 1-(17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-3-benzoyloxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)hexadec-3-en-5-one.

The above compound was hydrogenated by a similar process to that described in Example 4, and there was thus obtained as an oil 1-(17 $\beta$ -acetoxy-3-benzoyloxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)hexadecan-5-one.

The above compound was hydrolysed by a similar process to that described in the second paragraph of Example 1, and there was thus obtained 1-(3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)hexadecan-5-one, which was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using a 4:1 v/v mixture of toluene and ethyl acetate as eluant.

#### Example 40

The process described in Example 26 was repeated using [3-(5-N-n-butyl-N-methylcarbamoyl pentyloxy)propyl]triphenylphosphonium bromide and 3-benzoyloxy-17 $\beta$ -hydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-triene-7 $\alpha$ -carboxaldehyde (Example 6) as starting materials. There was thus obtained after simultaneous hydrogenolysis and hydrogenation, as an oil, 6-[4-(3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-

1,3,5(10)-triene-7 $\alpha$ -yl)butoxy]-N-n-butyl-N-methylhexanamide, the structure of which was confirmed by proton magnetic resonance and mass spectroscopy.

5 The triphenylphosphonium bromide used as starting material was obtained from 6-bromohexanoic acid by reaction with oxalyl chloride and  
10 N-methyl-n-butylamine to form the amide, then with 1,3-trimethylene glycol and sodium hydride in dimethylformamide to form the 6-(3-hydroxypropoxy)hexanamide, followed by conversion of the 3-hydroxy group to a 3-bromo group with bromine and triphenylphosphine in dimethylformamide and finally reaction with triphenylphosphine in toluene.

Example 41

15 A mixture of 7 $\alpha$ -(10-mesyloxydecyl)oestra-1;3,5(10)-triene-3,17 $\beta$ -diol (0.07 g.) and N-methylhexylamine (0.5 ml.) was heated at 75°C. for 2 hours and the excess of N-methylhexylamine was removed by evaporation. The residue was purified by chromatography  
20 on a silica gel column using a 24:1 v/v mixture of ethyl acetate and triethylamine as eluant, and there was thus obtained as an oil 7 $\alpha$ -(10-N-methylhexylaminodecyl)-oestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-3,17 $\beta$ -diol, the structure of which was confirmed by proton magnetic resonance and  
25 mass spectroscopy.

The process described above was repeated using N-methyl-4,4,5,5,6,6,6-heptafluorohexylamine or N-methyl-p-chlorophenethylamine in place of  
30 N-methylhexylamine, and there were thus obtained respectively 7 $\alpha$ -[10-(N-methyl-4,4,5,5,6,6,6-heptafluorohexylamino)decyl)- and 7 $\alpha$ -(10-N-methyl-p-chlorophenethylaminodecyl)-oestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-3,17 $\beta$ -diol.

The 7 $\alpha$ -mesyloxydecyl-oestradiol used as starting material was obtained from 3-benzyloxy-17 $\beta$ -

hydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-triene-7 $\alpha$ -carboxaldehyde  
(described in Example 6) by reaction with  
9-(dimethyl-t-butylsilyloxynonyl)triphenylphosphonium  
bromide (prepared from 9-bromononanol, dimethyl-t-butyl-  
5 silyl chloride and triphenylphosphine) by a similar  
process to that described in the last paragraph of  
Example 6, followed by acid hydrolysis of the silyl  
group, mesylation of the decenol thus obtained and  
simultaneous hydrogenation of the mesyloxydecene  
10 side-chain to a mesyloxydecane side-chain and  
hydrogenolysis of the 3-benzyloxy group.

Example 42

m-Chloroperbenzoic acid (0.02 g.) was added to  
a solution of 7 $\alpha$ -(10-N-methylhexylaminodecyl)-  
15 oestra-1,3,5(10)-triene-3,17 $\beta$ -diol (Example 41;  
0.047g.) in methylene chloride (8 ml.) and the mixture  
was kept at laboratory temperature for 2.5 hours.  
Methylene chloride (20 ml.) was added and the solution  
was washed successively with saturated aqueous sodium  
10 sulphite solution, saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate  
solution and water (5 ml. each time), dried and  
evaporated to dryness. The residue was purified by  
chromatography on a silica gel column using a 7:2:1  
v/v/v mixture of ethyl acetate, methanol and  
25 triethylamine as eluant. There was thus obtained as an  
oil 7 $\alpha$ -(10-N-methyl-N-hexylaminodecyl)oestra-1,3,5(10)-  
triene-3,17 $\beta$ -diol-N-oxide, the structure of which was  
confirmed by proton magnetic resonance and mass  
spectroscopy.

30 The N-oxides of 7 $\alpha$ -[10-(N-methyl-  
4,4,5,5,6,6,6-heptafluorohexylamino)decyl]- and 7 $\alpha$ -(10-  
N-methyl-p-chlorophenethylaminodecyl)oestra-1,3,5(10)-  
triene-3,17 $\beta$ -diol (also described in Example 41) were  
similarly obtained by oxidation with m-chlorobenzoic  
35 acid.

Example 43

The process described in Example 32 was repeated using 7 $\alpha$ -(7-mesyloxyheptyl)oestra-1,3,5(10)-triene-3,17 $\beta$ -diol (obtained as described in Example 41 using initially 6-(dimethyl-t-butylysilyloxy)hexyl-triphenylphosphonium bromide) and 2-n-pentylthio-ethanol (obtained from pentanethiol and 2-bromoethanol) as starting materials. There was thus obtained as an oil 7 $\alpha$ -[7-(2-n-pentylthioethoxy)heptyl]oestra-1,3,5(10)-triene-3,17 $\beta$ -diol, the structure of which was confirmed by proton magnetic resonance and mass spectroscopy.

The above compound was oxidised with sodium metaperiodate by a similar process to that described in Example 33, and there was thus obtained 7 $\alpha$ -[7-(2-n-pentylsulphinyloxy)heptyl]oestra-1,3,5(10)-triene-3,17 $\beta$ -diol.

Example 44

The process described in Example 32 was repeated using 7 $\alpha$ -(6-mesyloxyhexyl)oestra-1,3,5(10)-triene-3,17 $\beta$ -diol (obtained as described in Example 41 using initially 5-(dimethyl-t-butylysilyloxy)pentyl-triphenylphosphonium bromide and 3-n-pentylthiopropylthiol (obtained from trimethylene-1,3-dithiol and pentyl bromide) as starting materials. There was thus obtained as an oil 7 $\alpha$ -[6-(3-n-pentylthiopropylthio)hexyl]oestra-1,3,5(10)triene-3,17 $\beta$ -diol, the structure of which was confirmed by proton magnetic resonance and mass spectroscopy.

The above compound was oxidised with sodium metaperiodate by a similar process to that described in Example 33, and there was thus obtained 7 $\alpha$ -[6-(3-n-pentylsulphinypropylsulphiny)hexyl]oestra-1,3,5(10)-triene-3,17 $\beta$ -diol.

Example 45

The process described in Example 1 was repeated using N-methyl-n-butylamine and 3-[7-(3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-triene-7 $\alpha$ -yl)-heptylthio]propionic acid as starting materials. There was thus obtained as an oil 3-[7-(3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-triene-7 $\alpha$ -yl)heptylthio]-N-n-butyl-N-methylpropionamide, the structure of which was confirmed by proton magnetic resonance and mass spectroscopy.

The propionic acid used as starting material was obtained by the reaction of 7 $\alpha$ -(7-mesyloxyheptyl)oestra-1,3,5(10)-triene-3,17 $\beta$ -diol (obtained as described in Example 41 using initially 6-(dimethyl-t-butylsilyloxy)hexyltriphenylphosphonium bromide) with methyl 3-mercaptopropionate, followed by alkaline hydrolysis of the methyl ester.

Example 46

A mixture of 7 $\alpha$ -(10-mesyloxydecyl)oestra-1,3,5(10)-triene-3,17 $\beta$ -diol (Example 41; 0.1 g.), sodium iodide (0.034 g.), butylmethylphenylphosphine (0.039 ml.) and acetonitrile (5 ml.) was heated under reflux for 16 hours, evaporated to dryness and the residue was dissolved in methylene chloride (20 ml.). The mixture was filtered and the filtrate was diluted with diethyl ether (100 ml.). The mixture was filtered and the solid residue, which consisted of butyl[10-(3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-triene-7 $\alpha$ -yl)decyl]methylphenylphosphonium iodide, was dissolved in a mixture of tetrahydrofuran (6 ml.) and dimethyl sulphoxide (1 ml.). n-Butyl-lithium (0.5 ml. of a 1.6M molar solution in hexane) was added and the mixture was stirred at laboratory temperature for 90 minutes. Water (10 ml.) was added and the mixture was extracted three times with ethyl acetate (10 ml. each time). The combined extracts

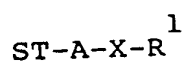
were washed with water, dried and evaporated to dryness and the residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using a 97:3 v/v mixture of methylene chloride and methanol as eluant. There were thus  
5 obtained as oils a less polar substance 7 $\alpha$ -(10-butyl-phenylphosphinyldecyl)oestra-1,3,5(10)-triene-3,17 $\beta$ -diol and a more polar substance 7 $\alpha$ -(10-methylphenylphosphinyldecyl)oestra-1,3,5(10)-triene-3,17 $\beta$ -diol, the structures of both of which were confirmed by proton magnetic  
10 resonance and mass spectroscopy.

Example 47

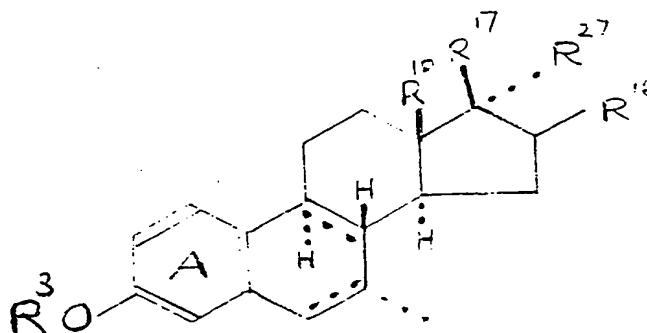
A mixture of butyl[10-(3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-triene-7 $\alpha$ -yl)decyl]methylphenylphosphonium iodide (Example 46; 0.05 g.), tetrahydrofuran (5 ml.)  
15 and aqueous 30% sodium hydroxide solution (2 ml.) was stirred at laboratory temperature for 18 hours, diluted with water (10 ml.) and extracted three times with ethyl acetate (10 ml. each time). The combined extracts were washed with water, dried and evaporated to dryness and  
20 the residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column using a 25:1 v/v mixture of methylene chloride and methanol as eluant. There was thus obtained as an oil 7 $\alpha$ -(10-butylmethylphosphinyldecyl)-oestra-1,3,5(10)-triene-3,17 $\beta$ -diol, the structure of  
25 which was confirmed by proton magnetic resonance and mass spectroscopy.

What we claim is:-

1. A steroid derivative of the formula:-

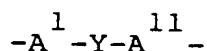


wherein ST is a 7 $\alpha$ -linked steroid nucleus of the general formula:-



- wherein the dotted lines between carbon atoms 6 and 7, and carbon atoms 8 and 9, of the steroid nucleus indicate that there is an optional double bond between carbon atoms 6 and 7, or that there are two optional double bonds between carbon atoms 6 and 7 and carbon atoms 8 and 9;
- wherein the aromatic ring A may optionally bear one or two halogen or alkyl substituents;
- wherein  $R^3$  is hydrogen or alkyl, alkanoyl, alkoxycarbonyl, carboxyalkanoyl or aroyl each of up to 10 carbon atoms;
- wherein  $R^{16}$  is hydrogen, alkyl of up to 6 carbon atoms which is preferably in the  $\beta$ -configuration, or hydroxy which is preferably in the  $\alpha$ -configuration;

wherein either  $R^{17}$  (in the  $\beta$ -configuration) is hydroxy or alkanoyloxy, carboxyalkanoyloxy or aroyloxy each of up to 10 carbon atoms; and  $R^{27}$  (in the  $\alpha$ -configuration) is hydrogen or alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl each of up to 6 carbon atoms ;  
 or  $R^{17}$  and  $R^{27}$  together form oxo (=O);  
 wherein  $R^{18}$  is alkyl of up to 6 carbon atoms;  
 wherein A is straight- or branched- chain alkylene, alkenylene or alkynylene each of from 3 to 14 carbon atoms, which may have one or more hydrogen atoms replaced by fluorine atoms, or has the formula



wherein  $A^1$  and  $A^{11}$  are each alkylene or alkenylene, optionally fluorinated, having together a total of 2 to 13 carbon atoms and Y is -O-, -S-, -SO-, -SO<sub>2</sub>-, -CO- or -NR- wherein R is hydrogen or alkyl of up to 3 carbon atoms;  
 or  $A^1$  is alkylene or alkenylene, optionally fluorinated, and  $A^{11}$  is a direct link or alkylene or alkenylene, optionally fluorinated, such that  $A^1$  and  $A^{11}$  together have a total of 1 to 12 carbon atoms, and Y is -NRCO-, -CONR-, -COO-, -OCO- or phenylene wherein R has the meaning stated above;  
 wherein  $R^1$  is hydrogen, or alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, halogenoalkyl, carboxyalkyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, aryl or arylalkyl each of up to 10 carbon atoms, or dialkylaminoalkyl wherein each alkyl is of up to 6 carbon atoms, or  $R^1$  is joined to  $R^2$  as defined below;  
 and wherein X is  $-\text{CONR}^2-$ ,  $-\text{CSNR}^2_{22}-$ ,  $-\text{NR}^{12}-\text{CO}-$ ,  
 $-\text{NR}^{12}-\text{CS}-$ ,  $-\text{NR}^{12}-\text{CONR}^2-$ ,  $-\text{NR}^{12}-\overset{\text{NR}}{\underset{\text{NR}}{\parallel}}\text{C}-\text{NR}^2-$ ,  
 $-\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^2-$  or  $-\text{CO}-$ ;

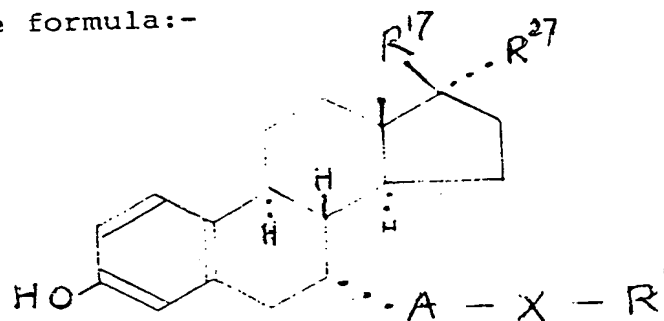


or, when  $R^1$  is not hydrogen, is  $-O-$ ,  $-NR^2-$ ,  
 $-(NO)R^2-$ ,  $-(PO)R^2-$ ,  $-NR^{12}-COO-$ ;  $-NR^{12}-SO_2-$ ,  $-S-$ ,  
 $-SO-$  or  $-SO_2-$ ;

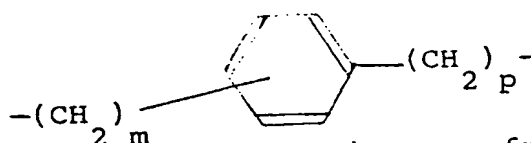
5 wherein  $R^1$  is hydrogen or alkyl of up to 6 carbon  
 atoms, or  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  together form alkylene or  
 halogenoalkylene such that, with the adjacent nitrogen  
 atom, they form a heterocyclic ring of 5 to 7 ring  
 atoms, one of which atoms may be a second heterocyclic  
 atom selected from oxygen, sulphur and nitrogen;  
 10 wherein  $R^{12}$  is hydrogen or alkyl of up to 6 carbon  
 atoms;

and wherein  $R^{22}$  is hydrogen, cyano or nitro;  
 or a salt thereof when appropriate.

2. A steroid derivative as claimed in claim 1  
 15 which has the formula:-



wherein  $R^{17}$  is hydroxy and  $R^{27}$  is hydrogen or  
 ethynyl, or  $R^{17}$  and  $R^{27}$  together form oxo;  
 wherein  $-A-$  is  $-(CH_2)_n-$ , wherein  $n$  is an integer  
 20 from 3 to 14, or  $-A-$  is:-



wherein  $m$  is an integer from 2 to 9 and  $p$  is 0 to 2;  
 wherein  $R^1$  is alkyl, fluoroalkyl or cycloalkyl each of  
 up to 10 carbon atoms, or phenyl, chlorophenyl or  
 25 benzyl, or is linked to  $R^2$  as stated below;  
 wherein  $X$  is  $-CONR^2-$ ,  $-NR^{12}-CO-$ ,  $-S-$ ,  $-SO-$  or  $-SO_2-$ ,

wherein  $R^2$  is hydrogen or alkyl of up to 3 carbon atoms or together with  $R^1$  forms alkylene of 5 or 6 carbon atoms, and wherein  $R^{12}$  is hydrogen or alkyl of up to 3 carbon atoms.

5 3. A steroid derivative as claimed in claim 2 wherein the number of carbon atoms in the two groups A and  $R^1$  adds up to between 12 and 16 inclusive.

4. The compound N-n-butyl-N-methyl-,  
10 N-2,2,3,3,4,4,4-heptafluorobutyl-N-methyl- or N, N-(3-methylpentamethylene)-11-(3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)undecamide;

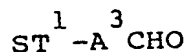
N-n-butyl- or N-2,2,3,3,4,4,4-heptafluorobutyl-3-p-[4-(3,17 $\beta$ -dihydroxyoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7 $\alpha$ -yl)butyl]phenylpropionamide;

15 7 $\alpha$ -(10-p-chlorophenylthiodecyl)-, 7 $\alpha$ -(10-p-chlorophenylsulphinyldecyl)-, 7 $\alpha$ -[9-(4,4,5,5,5-pentafluorosulphonylnonyl)-, 7 $\alpha$ -[10-(4,4,4-trifluorobutylsulphinyldecyl)- or 7 $\alpha$ -[10-(p-chlorobenzylsulphinyldecyl]oestra-1,3,5(10)-triene-3,17 $\beta$ -diol; or

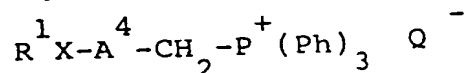
20 7 $\alpha$ -(9-n-heptylsulphinylnonyl)oestra-1,3,5(10)-triene-3,17 $\beta$ -diol.

5. A process for the manufacture of a steroid derivative claimed in Claim 1, which comprises:  
25 (a) when X has the formula  $-\text{CONR}^2-$ ,  $-\text{CSNR}^2-$  or  $-\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^2-$ , the reaction of a compound of the formula  $\text{ST}^1-\text{A}-\text{Z}^1$ , wherein A has the meaning stated in claim 1, wherein  $\text{ST}^1$  either has the same meaning as stated in claim 1 for ST, or is an equivalent 7 $\alpha$ -linked steroid nucleus  
30 which bears one or more protecting groups for functional derivatives, and wherein  $\text{Z}^1$  is an activated group derived from a carboxylic, thiocarboxylic or sulphonic acid, with an amine of the formula  $\text{HNR}^1\text{R}^2$ , wherein  $\text{R}^1$  and  $\text{R}^2$  have the meanings stated in claim 1;

- or (b) when X has the formula  $\text{-CO-}$ , the reaction of an acid of the formula  $\text{ST}^1\text{-A-COOH}$ , wherein  $\text{ST}^1$  and A have the meanings stated above, with an organometallic compound of the formula  $\text{R}^1\text{-M}$ , wherein  $\text{R}^1$  has the meaning stated above and M is a metal group;
- or (c) when X has the formula  $\text{-S-}$ ,  $\text{-O-}$ ,  $\text{-NR}^2\text{-}$  or  $(\text{PO})\text{R}^2$ , the reaction of a compound of the formula  $\text{ST}^1\text{-A-Z}^2$ , wherein  $\text{ST}^1$  and A have the meanings stated above and wherein  $\text{Z}^2$  is a displaceable group, with a compound of the formula  $\text{R}^1\text{SH}$ ,  $\text{R}^1\text{OH}$ ,  $\text{HNR}^1\text{R}^2$  or  $\text{R}^1\text{R}^2\text{P-C}_6\text{H}_5$ , wherein  $\text{R}^1$  and  $\text{R}^2$  have the meanings stated above, whereafter a phosphonium salt is hydrolysed to the phosphinyl compound;
- or (d) when X has the formula  $\text{-NR}^{12}\text{CO-}$ ,  $\text{-NR}^{12}\text{CS-}$ ,  $\text{-NR}^{12}\text{CONR}^2\text{-}$ ,  $\text{-NR}^{12}\overset{\text{NR}^{22}}{\underset{\text{||}}{\text{C}}}\text{-NR}^2\text{-}$ ,  $\text{-NR}^{12}\text{COO-}$  or  $\text{-NR}^{12}\text{SO-}$ , the reaction of a compound of the formula  $\text{ST}^1\text{-A-NHR}^{12}$ , wherein  $\text{ST}^1$ , A and  $\text{R}^{12}$  have the meanings stated above, with an acylating agent derived from an acid of the formula  $\text{R}^1\text{COOH}$ ,  $\text{R}^1\text{CSOH}$ ,  $\text{R}^1\text{OCOOH}$  or  $\text{R}^1\text{SO}_2\text{OH}$ ; or, for the manufacture of a urea, with an isocyanate of the formula  $\text{R}^1\text{NCO}$ ; or, for the manufacture of a guanidine, with a cyanamide of the formula  $\text{R}^1\text{NR}^2\text{-CN}$ ;
- or (e) when  $\text{-A-}$  is alkenylene of the formula  $\text{-A}^3\text{-CH=CH-A}^4\text{-}$ , the reaction of a compound of the formula:-



- wherein  $\text{ST}^1$  and  $\text{A}^3$  have the meanings stated above, with a triphenylphosphonium salt of the formula:-



wherein  $R^1$ , X and  $A^4$  have the meanings stated above  
and wherein  $Q^-$  is an anion;

wherafter:

- 5 (i) any protecting group in  $ST^1$  is removed by conventional means;
- or (ii) a steroid derivative wherein ST is a 17-hydroxy-steroid derivative may be converted by conventional reactions into the corresponding 17- keto steroid derivative, and thence to the corresponding 17
- 10 -hydroxy-17 -hydrocarbonyl steroid derivative (that is, a steroid derivative wherein  $R^{27}$  is alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl);
- or (iii) a steroid derivative wherein  $R^3$  and/or  $R^{17}$  are other than hydrogen may be obtained from the
- 20 corresponding compound wherein  $R^3$  and/or  $R^{17}$  are hydrogen by a conventional etherification or esterification process;
- or (iv) a steroid derivative wherein  $R^3$  and/or  $R^{17}$  are hydrogen may be obtained by hydrolysis of the
- 25 corresponding compound wherein  $R^3$  and/or  $R^{17}$  are other than hydrogen;
- or (v) a steroid derivative wherein A is alkenylene may be hydrogenated to provide the corresponding compound wherein A is alkylene;
- 30 or (vi) a steroid derivative wherein -X- is  $-CH_2NR_2-$  or  $-NR_2CH_2-$  may be obtained by the reduction of the corresponding compound wherein -X- is  $-CONR_2-$  or  $-NR_2CO-$ ;
- or (vii) a steroid derivative wherein -X- is -CSNH- or
- 35 -NHCS- may be obtained by the reaction of the corresponding compound wherein X is -CONH- or -NHCO- with 2,4-bis-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1,3-dithia-2,4-diphosphetane-2,4-disulphide;
- or (viii) a steroid derivative wherein X is  $-(NO)R^2$ ,  $-SO-$  or  $-SO_2-$  may be obtained by the oxidation of the

corresponding compound wherein X is  $-NR^2-$  or  $-S-$ .

6. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a steroid derivative, claimed in claim 1, together with a pharmaceutical acceptable diluent or carrier.

5 7. A composition as claimed in claim 6 which contains, in addition to the steroid derivative, one or more antiandrogenic agents or antiprogestational agents.

10 8. A composition as claimed in claim 6 which is suitable for oral administration and which contains from 5 to 500 mg. of a steroid derivative.

15 9. A method for producing an antioestrogenic effect in a warm-blooded animal in need of such treatment, which comprises administering to said animal an effective amount of at least one steroid derivative as claimed in claim 1.



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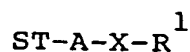
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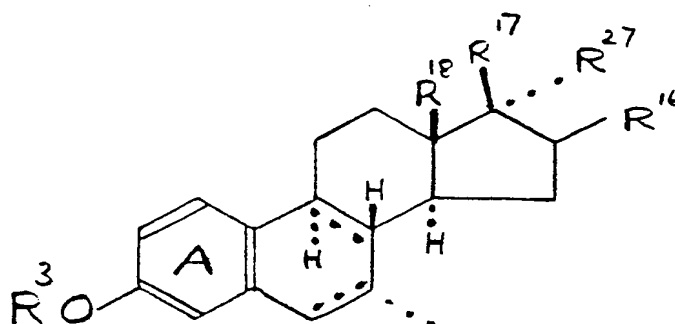
- 75 -

What we claim is:-

1. A process for the manufacture of a steroid derivative of the formula:-



5 wherein ST is a 7 $\alpha$ -linked steroid nucleus of the general formula:-



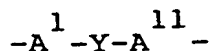
10 wherein the dotted lines between carbon atoms 6 and 7, and carbon atoms 8 and 9, of the steroid nucleus indicate that there is an optional double bond between carbon atoms 6 and 7, or that there are two optional double bonds between carbon atoms 6 and 7 and carbon atoms 8 and 9;

wherein the aromatic ring A may optionally bear one or two halogen or alkyl substituents;

15 wherein R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen or alkyl, alkanoyl, alkoxy carbonyl, carboxyalkanoyl or aroyl each of up to 10 carbon atoms;

20 wherein R<sup>16</sup> is hydrogen, alkyl of up to 6 carbon atoms which is preferably in the  $\beta$ -configuration, or hydroxy which is preferably in the  $\alpha$ -configuration;

wherein either  $R^{17}$  (in the  $\beta$ -configuration) is hydroxy or alkanoyloxy, carboxyalkanoyloxy or aroyloxy each of up to 10 carbon atoms; and  $R^{27}$  (in the  $\alpha$ -configuration) is hydrogen or alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl each of up to 6 carbon atoms ;  
 5 or  $R^{17}$  and  $R^{27}$  together form oxo (=O);  
 wherein  $R^{18}$  is alkyl of up to 6 carbon atoms;  
 wherein A is straight- or branched- chain alkylene, alkenylene or alkynylene each of from 3 to 14 carbon  
 10 atoms, which may have one or more hydrogen atoms replaced by fluorine atoms, or has the formula



wherein  $A^1$  and  $A^{11}$  are each alkylene or alkenylene, optionally fluorinated, having together a total of 2 to  
 15 13 carbon atoms and Y is -O-, -S-, -SO-, -SO<sub>2</sub>-, -CO- or -NR- wherein R is hydrogen or alkyl of up to 3 carbon atoms;  
 or  $A^1$  is alkylene or alkenylene, optionally fluorinated, and  $A^{11}$  is a direct link or alkylene or  
 20 alkenylene, optionally fluorinated, such that  $A^1$  and  $A^{11}$  together have a total of 1 to 12 carbon atoms, and Y is -NRCO-, -CONR-, -COO-, -OCO- or phenylene wherein R has the meaning stated above;  
 wherein  $R^1$  is hydrogen, or alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl,  
 25 halogenoalkyl, carboxyalkyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, aryl or arylalkyl each of up to 10 carbon atoms, or dialkylaminoalkyl wherein each alkyl is of up to 6 carbon atoms, or  $R^1$  is joined to  $R^2$  as defined below;  
 30 and wherein X is  $-\text{CONR}^2-$ ,  $-\text{CSNR}^2-$ ,  $-\text{NR}^{12}\text{CO}-$ ,  
 $-\text{NR}^{12}\text{CS}-$ ,  $-\text{NR}^{12}\text{CONR}^2-$ ,  $-\text{NR}^{12}\text{C}(\text{NR}^2)-$ ,  
 $-\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^2-$  or  $-\text{CO}-$ ;

or, when  $R^1$  is not hydrogen, is  $-O-$ ,  $-NR^2-$ ,  
 $-(NO)R^2-$ ,  $-(PO)R^2-$ ,  $-NR^{12}COO-$ ;  $-NR^{12}SO_2-$ ,  $-S-$ ,  
 $-SO-$  or  $-SO_2-$ ;

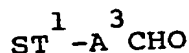
5 wherein  $R^1$  is hydrogen or alkyl of up to 6 carbon  
 atoms, or  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  together form alkylene or  
 halogenoalkylene such that, with the adjacent nitrogen  
 atom, they form a heterocyclic ring of 5 to 7 ring  
 atoms, one of which atoms may be a second heterocyclic  
 atom selected from oxygen, sulphur and nitrogen;  
 10 wherein  $R^{12}$  is hydrogen or alkyl of up to 6 carbon  
 atoms;  
 and wherein  $R^{22}$  is hydrogen, cyano or nitro;  
 or a salt thereof when appropriate, characterised by:-

- 15 (a) when X has the formula  $-CONR^2-$ ,  $-CSNR^2-$  or  $-SO_2NR^2-$ ,  
 the reaction of a compound of the formula  $ST^1-A-Z^1$ ,  
 wherein A has the meaning stated above, wherein  
 $ST^1$  either has the same meaning as stated above  
 for ST, or is an equivalent  $7\alpha$ -linked steroid nucleus  
 20 which bears one or more protecting groups for functional  
 derivatives, and wherein  $Z^1$  is an activated group  
 derived from a carboxylic, thiocarboxylic or sulphonic  
 acid, with an amine of the formula  $HNR^1R^2$ , wherein  
 $R^1$  and  $R^2$  have the meanings stated above;  
 25 or (b) when X has the formula  $-CO-$ , the reaction  
 of an acid of the formula  $ST^1-A-COOH$ , wherein  $ST^1$   
 and A have the meanings stated above, with an  
 organometallic compound of the formula  $R^1-M$ , wherein  
 $R^1$  has the meaning stated above and M is a metal  
 30 group;  
 or (c) when X has the formula  $-S-$ ,  $-O-$ ,  $-NR^2-$  or  
 $(PO)R^2$ , the reaction of a compound of the formula  
 $ST^1-A-Z^2$ , wherein  $ST^1$  and A have the meanings  
 stated above and wherein  $Z^2$  is a displaceable group,

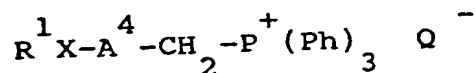


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- with a compound of the formula  $R^1SH$ ,  $R^1OH$ ,  $HNR^1R^2$  or  $R^1R^2P-C_6H_5$ , wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  have the meanings stated above, whereafter a phosphonium salt is hydrolysed to the phosphinyl compound;
- 5 or (d) when X has the formula  $-NR^{12}CO-$ ,  $-NR^{12}CS-$ ,  $-NR^{12}CONR^2-$ ,  $-NR^{12}-C(=NR^{22})-NR^2-$ ,  $-NR^{12}COO-$  or  $-NR^{12}SO-$ , the reaction of a compound of the formula  $ST^1-A-NHR^2$ , wherein  $ST^1$ , A and  $R^2$  have the meanings stated above, with an acylating agent derived
- 10 from an acid of the formula  $R^1COOH$ ,  $R^1CSOH$ ,  $R^1OCOOH$  or  $R^1SO_2OH$ ; or, for the manufacture of a urea, with an isocyanate of the formula  $R^1NCO$ ; or, for the manufacture of a guanidine, with a cyanamide of the formula  $R^1NR^2-CN$ ;
- 15 or (e) when -A- is alkenylene of the formula  $-A^3-CH=CH-A^4-$ , the reaction of a compound of the formula:-

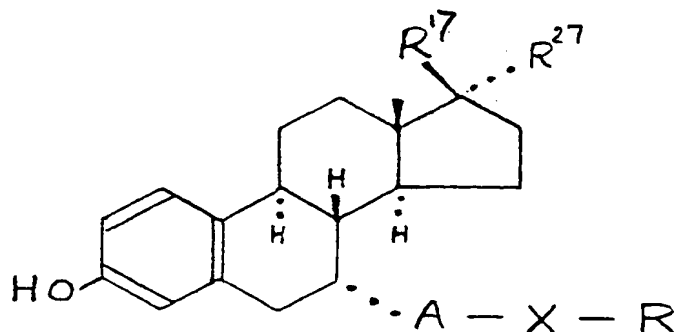


- wherein  $ST^1$  and  $A^3$  have the meanings stated above,
- 20 with a triphenylphosphonium salt of the formula:-



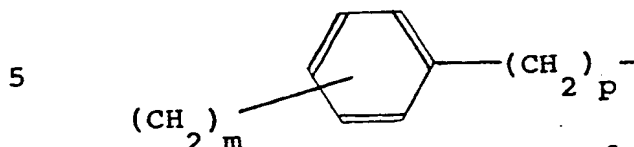
- wherein  $R^1$ , X and  $A^4$  have the meanings stated above and wherein  $Q^-$  is an anion;
- whereafter:
- 25 (i) any protecting group in  $ST^1$  is removed by conventional means;
- or (ii) a steroid derivative wherein ST is a 17-hydroxy-steroid derivative may be converted by conventional reactions into the corresponding 17-keto
- 30 steroid derivative, and thence to the corresponding 17

- hydroxy-17 -hydrocarbyl steroid derivative (that is, a steroid derivative wherein  $R^{27}$  is alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl);
- or (iii) a steroid derivative wherein  $R^3$  and/or  $R^{17}$  are other than hydrogen may be obtained from the corresponding compound wherein  $R^3$  and/or  $R^{17}$  are hydrogen by a conventional etherification or esterification process;
- or (iv) a steroid derivative wherein  $R^3$  and/or  $R^{17}$  are hydrogen may be obtained by hydrolysis of the corresponding compound wherein  $R^3$  and/or  $R^{17}$  are other than hydrogen;
- or (v) a steroid derivative wherein A is alkenylene may be hydrogenated to provide the corresponding compound wherein A is alkylene;
- or (vi) a steroid derivative wherein -X- is  $-CH_2NR_2-$  or  $-NR_2CH_2-$  may be obtained by the reduction of the corresponding compound wherein -X- is  $-CONR_2-$  or  $-NR_2CO-$ ;
- or (vii) a steroid derivative wherein -X- is  $-CSNH-$  or  $-NHCS-$  may be obtained by the reaction of the corresponding compound wherein X is  $-CONH-$  or  $-NHCO-$  with 2,4-bis-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1,3-dithia-2,4-diphosphetane-2,4-disulphide;
- or (viii) a steroid derivative wherein X is  $-(NO)R^2$ ,  $-SO-$  or  $-SO_2-$  may be obtained by the oxidation of the corresponding compound wherein X is  $-NR^2-$  or  $-S-$ .
2. A process as claimed in claim 1 for the manufacture of a steroid derivative of the formula  $ST-A-X-R^1$  wherein ST has the formula:-



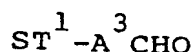
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wherein  $R^{17}$  is hydroxy and  $R^{27}$  is hydrogen or ethynyl, or  $R^{17}$  and  $R^{27}$  together form oxo; wherein -A- is  $-(CH_2)_n-$ , wherein n is an integer from 3 to 14, or -A- is:-

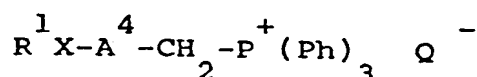


- wherein m is an integer from 2 to 9 and p is 0 to 2;  
 wherein  $R^1$  is alkyl, fluoroalkyl or cycloalkyl each of up to 10 carbon atoms, or  $R^2$  phenyl, chlorophenyl or benzyl, or is linked to  $R^{12}$  as stated below;  
 10 wherein X is  $-\text{CONR}^2-$ ,  $-\text{NR}^{12}\text{CO}-$ ,  $-\text{S}-$ ,  $-\text{SO}-$  or  $-\text{SO}_2-$ , wherein  $R^2$  is hydrogen or alkyl of up to 3 carbon atoms or together with  $R^1$  forms alkylene of 5 or 6 carbon atoms, and wherein  $R^{12}$  is hydrogen or alkyl of up to 3 carbon atoms, characterised by:-  
 15 (a) when X has the formula  $-\text{CONR}^2-$ , the reaction of a compound of the formula  $\text{ST}^1-\text{A}-\text{Z}^1$ , wherein A has the meaning stated above, wherein  $\text{ST}^1$  either has the same meaning as stated above for ST, or is an equivalent  $\gamma$ -linked steroid nucleus  
 20 which bears one or more protecting groups for functional derivatives, and wherein  $\text{Z}^1$  is an activated group derived from a carboxylic acid, with an amine of the formula  $\text{HNR}^1\text{R}^2$ , wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  have the meanings stated above;  
 25 or (b) when X has the formula  $-\text{S}-$ , the reaction of a compound of the formula  $\text{ST}^1-\text{A}-\text{Z}^2$ , wherein  $\text{ST}^1$  and A have the meanings stated above and wherein  $\text{Z}^2$  is a displaceable group, with a compound of the formula  $\text{R}^1\text{SH}$ ,  
 30 wherein  $R^1$  has the meaning stated above;

- or (c) when X has the formula  $\text{-NR}^{12}\text{CO-}$ ,  
 the reaction of a compound of the formula  
 $\text{ST}^1\text{-A- NHR}^{12}$ , wherein  $\text{ST}^1$ , A and  $\text{R}^{12}$  have the  
 meanings stated above, with an acylating agent derived  
 5 from an acid of the formula  $\text{R}^1\text{COOH}$ ;  
 or (d) when  $\text{-A-}$  is alkylene of the formula  
 $\text{-A}^3\text{-CH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{-A}^4\text{-}$ , the reaction of a compound of the  
 formula:-



- 10 wherein  $\text{ST}^1$  and  $\text{A}^3$  have the meanings stated above,  
 with a triphenylphosphonium salt of the formula:-



- wherein  $\text{R}^1$ , X and  $\text{A}^4$  have the meanings stated above  
 and wherein  $\text{Q}^-$  is an anion. followed by the  
 15 hydrogenation of the alkenylene group  $\text{-A}^3\text{-CH=CH-A}^4\text{-}$  thus  
 formed;

whereafter:

- (i) any protecting group in  $\text{ST}^1$  is removed by  
 conventional means;  
 20 or (ii) a steroid derivative wherein ST is a 17  
 -hydroxy-steroid derivative may be converted by  
 conventional reactions into the corresponding 17- keto  
 steroid derivative, and thence to the corresponding 17  
 -hydroxy-17 -ethynyl steroid derivative;  
 25 or (iii) a steroid derivative wherein X is  $\text{-SO-}$  or  
 $\text{-SO}_2\text{-}$  may be obtained by the oxidation of the  
 corresponding compound wherein X is  $\text{-S-}$ .

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